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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest, what's your level of confidence that rebates and refunds will be issued before the year ends?

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Bison Relations launches its new quarterly magazine, *Tops +More*, at Giovanni's.

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Should parents of extremely obese children lose custody for not controlling their kids' weight?

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FROM BAD TO WORSE

» Real GDP down 16 percent in last two years

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

If the Bureau of Economic Analysis' last report on the CNMI gross domestic product estimates confirmed that the islands' economy was shrinking, its 2008 and 2009 GDP estimates for the CNMI paint an economy already on the ropes following the demise of its once mighty garment industry.

Tony Babauta, Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, accompanied BEA officials in a meeting with acting governor Eloy S. Inos and lawmakers on Capital Hill yesterday, and although what they reported was no surprise to CNMI leaders, the presentation quantified through numbers and statistics the economic suffer-

See BAD on Page 4

MARK RABAGO

U.S. Department of Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, left, chats with acting governor Eloy S. Inos at the Governor's Office conference room yesterday morning prior to the start of the OIA-Bureau of Economic Analysis presentation of the 2008 and 2009 gross domestic product estimates for the CNMI.

Unruly airline passenger arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An airplane passenger was arrested Monday soon after his flight landed at the Saipan International Airport when he became unruly as the aircraft was descending in preparation for landing.

Taiji Sawada allegedly punched the plane's window, kicked the seat in front of him, and assaulted a flight attendant

He was arrested for interfering with the performance of a flight attendant. He will have his initial court appearance hearing today, Thursday, in federal court.

U.S. District Court for the NMI judge William Hayes appointed attorney Mark Hanson to represent Sawada in the case.

FBI special agent Mary Goff stated in her report that Sawada was one of the passengers aboard Delta Flight 298. About 30 minutes before landing, Sawada, who was in the business class cabin, became angry with a female passenger and started punching the window and

See UNRULY on Page 4

Sablan places Garrison on admin leave

» Ex-MHS principal accuses Sablan of retaliation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Garrison

The departure of Craig Garrison from Marianas High School will take place sooner than expected after Education Commissioner Rita Sablan placed him yesterday on administrative leave—a decision that Garrison criticized as a "clear sign of retaliation."

It was past 4pm yesterday when Garrison received a hand-delivered letter from Sablan stopping him from reporting for work effective Monday, July 18.

Garrison's contract is supposed to end on Sept. 1. He will still be paid during his administrative leave.

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Local

Duncan hails NMI school system for its accomplishments

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Education Secretary Arne Duncan commended yesterday the NMI Public School System and the Board of Education for their aggressive actions and commitment to push for reforms in public education despite the financial challenges it has experienced throughout the years.

At the same time, Duncan encouraged local education officials to apply for the "Promising Neighborhood Grant" to help improve the quality of life and education of schoolchildren.

During the 30-minute conference call yesterday, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan informed Duncan of the strides made by the local school system, highlighting reading levels and SAT-10 results.

Sablan reported that at the end of 2009, 48 percent of students were already reading at their grade level. At the same time, SAT-10 scores showed significant increases ranging from 33 percentile to 51 percentile at the end of school year 2010.

The commissioner also shared with Duncan that 60 percent of high school graduates this school year are going to go on to college while 30 percent will join the military. Only 10 percent, she said, will be immediately joining the workforce.

Sablan also highlighted the strengths and unique qualities of the CNMI school system: being the only and first public school district in the Pacific Region to be accredited K-12 school districtwide by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund it received last year, she said, was the first approved by the national government among insular areas and is the only area not considered at-risk.

She also cited PSS' 10-year history of clean audits without questioned costs.

Duncan was also updated about ongoing projects funded by federal programs such as the green energy project, school buses, laptops for students, career technical education programs, repairs and renovations of schools, as well as the restoration of over a hundred teacher and counselor positions.

PSS has about 11,000 enrollees and employs 565 classroom teachers in its 20 campuses on three islands.

'Promising grant'

Duncan urged PSS officials to apply for the "Promising Neighborhood Grant," a competitive grant that has been opened to outlying areas.

Sablan vowed to submit a proposal before the Sept. 6 deadline. She said a committee is currently reviewing the application for board approval.

Once approved, PSS will get $500,000 in additional financial assistance.

Board of Education chair Marylou Ada described yesterday's conversation with Duncan as "a good dialogue" that will surely benefit Commonwealth students. She lauded Duncan for taking the time to listen to PSS issues and promised that the board and the PSS leadership will continue their aggressive efforts and dedication to improve the quality of education in the CNMI.

Farmer's wish since 2008 to seek employer granted

By FERDIE DELA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court authorized yesterday a farmer to seek work in the CNMI, an issue that he has been fighting with the Department of Labor since 2008.

Associate judge David A. Wiseman issued the order after Labor, through the Office of the Attorney General, agreed to grant John John H. Cruz permission to seek work.

Labor also moved to dismiss the appeal filed by Cruz in court. Wiseman granted the motion.

The judge ordered that Cruz's umbrella permit will be reclassified by Labor from "case pending" to "240K, work authorized" as of yesterday. The expiration date and next filing date is Nov. 27, 2011.

Cruz is among the many jobless alien workers who were assisted by attorney Stephen Woodruff and the federal Labor Ombudsman's Office in appealing Labor orders with the court.

On Monday, Wiseman issued similar orders to over 40 jobless aliens.

Labor records show that on May 25, 2007, Ramon M. Sablan submitted an application to Labor to employ Cruz as a farmer. Labor approved a conditional grant of transfer that same day.

Cruz worked for Sablan in June and July 2007 and was paid for his services. In August 2007, Cruz was told to stop farming and was not provided any work after that, according to Woodruff.

The following month, Woodruff said, Cruz testified against Sablan in a Labor compliance agency case. By virtue of this testimony, Woodruff said that Cruz is a "whistleblower" under Labor employment rules and regulations.

In June 2008, Cruz filed a labor case against Sablan on grounds that the employer breached the employment contract by abandoning him. The matter came for mediation on June 30, 2008, before a "guest mediator."

In April 2009 or almost a year later, a Labor administrative hearing officer ruled that the "guest mediator" granted immediate relief to Cruz at that time (June 30, 2008).

On April 20, 2009, the administrative hearing officer ordered Cruz to depart the CNMI once a repatriation ticket was supplied either by Sablan or the bonding company.

Cruz appealed to the Labor secretary, but was denied.

Cruz filed in July 2009 the petition for judicial review of Labor's orders.

Man with an arrest warrant in Nevada is allowed to post bail

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has found probable cause to justify the arrest of a man by federal agents based upon an arrest warrant from the State of Nevada for a theft case.

During a hearing Wednesday afternoon, Wiseman allowed Ka Cheung Ip to deposit $5,000 cash with an unsecured bond of $45,000.

The judge appointed Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's general manager Tom Liu as third-party custodian for Ip.

Status conference will be on July 19 at 9am.

Wiseman required Ip to report daily to Liu. The defendant is allowed to travel between Saipan and Tinian, but is prohibited from leaving the CNMI.

Attorney G. Anthony Long appeared as counsel for Ip at the hearing. Chief prosecutor Michael L. Ernest represented the government.

As of yesterday, no other details about the case were available. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NMC president delays austerity Fridays

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A planned "austerity Friday" at the Northern Marianas College was temporarily put on hold by its new president, Dr. Sharon Hart, who said that further discussion and review is needed before it is implemented.

The college had announced early this month that it will implement an eight-hour work reduction among all employees effective tomorrow, July 15, due to an expected budget shortfall this fiscal year. The decision was made before Hart came to office on July 5.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, the college announced that it plans to move forward with the reduction in work hours but enforcement will only be made once the necessary policy changes take effect.

According to the college, existing policies need to be amended in order to properly implement the change in work hours. And, as per board policy, any proposed policy or policy amendment needs to be discussed and reviewed through the appropriate NMC governance body prior its submission to the Board of Regents for consideration.

Hart

NMC's Human Resources Office is now preparing the necessary policy changes that will give the college administration the flexibility needed to implement the work hour cuts.

The proposed policy change, NMC said, will be presented at the next College Council meeting. The College Council serves as the primary advisory body to the president on issues related to college operations. It is composed of representatives of all college constituencies. If approved, the amendment will be transmitted to the president and then to the Board of Regents.

More details about the reduction in work force will be announced after the policy changes have taken effect, according to the statement.

"To prepare for potential funding shortfalls in the next fiscal year, the college has refined its program review processes to link more clearly to planning, budgeting, and resource allocation," said Hart, adding that "the refined processes will enable the college to strategically prioritize expenditures for the next year."

Meanwhile, NMC will continue other cost-savings measures, including shortening the summer semester session, reducing utility use across campus, and restricting new hires.

The Office of Management and Budget earlier informed former interim president Lorraine Cabrera that NMC's budget allotment for the remainder of the fiscal year would be cut by 7.58 percent, or about $340,000. Accordingly, the OMB office asked the college to adjust expenditure rates to ensure spending is within the adjusted allocation.

The move to reduce employees' work hours by eight per pay period followed a series of campus-wide discussions that were facilitated through the college's shared governance structure. The move was made to ensure that the college's limited financial resources are enough to support student learning programs and services and to improve institutional effectiveness.

No more free delivery of tables and chairs from Saipan Mayor's Office

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores has stopped the municipality's long practice of providing free delivery of its tables and chairs to whoever needed it, saying these things could now only be used for funerals, wakes, and church-related activities.

The new directive takes effect tomorrow, July 15.

Flores disclosed yesterday that the decision was made as a result of the limited budget and resources for the municipality's programs and operation.

Teri Camacho, the municipality's fiscal and budget officer, disclosed that fuel expenses were among the highest expenditures recorded under its "all others" account, amounting to $40,368 from Oct. 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011.

The office averaged $4,000 to $5,000 in fuel expenses every month, Camacho said, majority of which were for the free delivery of tables and chairs to various community occasions every day.

"We need to inform our community that we need their help and understanding. Budget is tight and we need to keep our programs. By stopping this practice of providing free delivery [of tables and chairs], we're seeing a tremendous savings for our municipality," said Flores.

Those who want to borrow the municipality-owned chairs and tables will have to pick them up and their use will be restricted only to funerals, wakes, novenas, and other related activities. Those who don't have a vehicle to transport the equipment will be charged a $15 fee for fuel.

Based on their analysis, Flores and Camacho said the municipality will save almost half of their monthly fuel expenses—or over $2,000 monthly.

Camacho said the total fuel expenditures also covers diesel used for the heavy machines owned by the municipality for its beautification projects and road repairs.

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Kilili: HR 1466 not part of national immigration debate

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said his bill that seeks to grant "CNMI-only resident status" for four specific groups of people in the CNMI is not part of the national immigration debate.

"One thing that is very important to emphasize about H.R. 1466 is that it is not part of the national immigration debate. In fact, H.R. 1466 is not really about immigrants. It does extend permanent resident status that a small group of people were given under CNMI law, so those people can continue to live in the Northern Marianas, as our local law intended," said Sablan on the eve of House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs' public hearing on his bill.

Senate staffer Allen Stayman, meanwhile, said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune* that if Sablan's bill somehow manages to hurdle the U.S. House of Representatives, it stands a fair chance of passing the U.S. Senate.

"If it passes the House, then I think it would have a reasonable chance in the Senate," said Stayman, who also said he doesn't expect U.S. Congress to consider anytime soon the recommendations made by Department of Interior with regards to long-term nonresident workers in the CNMI.

Sablan

Good start

U.S. Department of Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta said that Sablan's bill is a good start in helping long-term workers in the CNMI get some sort of status.

"My thoughts on Kilili's bill is that it takes care of smaller group of people than our report made a recommendation for. I think it's a good start. Any opportunity that is there that takes care of people in a manner we have made our recommendations is a good start. I think he was able to get the attention of the committee and the subcommittee to have his bill have a hearing on his legislation. I don't think we will be opposing it," he said.

Babauta is on island with members of the Bureau of Economic Analysis to present the 2008 and 2009 CNMI gross domestic product estimates.

Sablan said his bill is more than just about immigration and its goal is not to separate families.

"H.R. 1466 is basically about people who were born in the Northern Mariana Islands and their right to stay in the land of their birth with their families. Their situation was not taken into consideration when PL 110-229 was enacted and now we have to fix that problem. I think most of us can agree that the law should not separate families," he said.

Sablan's H.R. 1466 proposes a "CNMI-only resident status" for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as of May 8, 2008, and continuing to be on the islands, CNMI permanent residents, those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978, and the spouses or children, "as defined in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)), of an alien described in subclauses (I) or (II)."

Sablan is appreciative that Rep. John Fleming (R-LA) recognized the importance of having a hearing on his bill.

"I met with him in January, as soon as he won the subcommittee gavel, to explain my concerns about how federal immigration law is impacting the economy of the Northern Marianas and many families in our islands. He understood that this is not a partisan issue, but something that the subcommittee has responsibility to oversee. So, now we are holding the hearing," he said.

Sablan also looks forward to officials of the Department of Homeland Security testifying in the July 14 hearing (July 15 in the CNMI).

"Homeland Security left it to the Department of the Interior to represent the administration at the hearing we held last year on these matters. But Interior, of course, could not really answer for Homeland Security. This time Homeland Security will be at the hearing to answer for itself," he said.

A lot of pleading

Babauta, meanwhile, said that Interior is doing its best to convince DHS to come out with the long-awaited CNMI worker regulations.

"Federal officials have been pleading with other federal officials to try to get the regs out, too. I think we in [Interior] understand how difficult this is in terms of planning for the businesses and also for the workers. We have been encouraging DHS to get out the rules and the regulations as soon as possible. …There's frustration there, but we understand and at least for my part, my office, and my department's part, we are trying to encourage DHS to move a little bit quicker," he said.

The DOI official reiterated that he doesn't anticipate any mass deportation of alien workers once their alien permits expire on November 2011.

"I have no anticipation that there will be a mass deportation. As much frustration as we have over the process I think DHS understands it. For as long as the process has taken I think that even with that there's a sensitivity and there's an understanding by DHS that would cause them to act that there will be no mass deportation. It's just a sense that we have," said Babauta.

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed, meantime, invites the public to attend the group's gathering on midnight of July 15 to monitor the hearing over the Internet.

He said while they continue to oppose Sablan's bill because it does not provide a pathway to U.S. citizenship for all long-term foreign workers, they will still watch the hearing to learn from the proceedings.

Syed said he expects as much 50 people to join them at the DHS Office in Garapan, where they will set up a flat screen TV to monitor the hearing.

BAD

From Page 1

ing the islands have gone through and continue to go through the past several years.

The estimates for the CNMI showed that real GDP—GDP adjusted to remove price changes—decreased 19.8 percent in 2009 to $716 million after decreasing 12.1 percent to $847 million in 2008. GDP represents the total amount of products and services produced in a given eyar.

BEA said the decrease in exports of goods in 2008 and 2009 reflected the continued decline of the CNMI's garment manufacturing industry. The last garment factory closed during the first quarter of 2009.

While exports of goods began its steady decline in 2005, BEA said the steepest declines occurred in the surveyed years—2008 and 2009.

BEA also said that decreases in real consumer spending in 2008 and 2009 negatively impacted economic growth, most notably in 2009. That year real consumer spending fell by approximately 13 percent to $518 million after falling by less than 1 percent to $588 million in 2008.

While the last estimates do not give a rosy picture, it nevertheless will help the CNMI design a blueprint to start its economic recovery, Babauta said.

"It begins to paint a picture to leaders of the islands and up on Capitol Hill, so they have the right information and are empowered to make good decisions," he said.

BEA deputy director Dr. Brian C. Moyer said the Commonwealth economy's staggering decline could be blamed on its lack of diversity.

"The story here is your economy is so dependent on a few industries. For the mainland, tourism may go down but you have other industries offsetting that so in the aggregate the economy only falls 2.6 percent [in 2009]," he said.

The problem with the CNMI, Moyer said, is it is dependent on only tourism and garment manufacturing, which Inos was quick to point out that the islands now have become a single economy, relying solely on tourism.

Inos said the recent GDP analysis should be a lesson learned for the CNMI "not to put its eggs in one basket" or in this case relying only in two industries.

"With your assistance Mr. Secretary [Babauta], we can all begin to roll our sleeves and use this report to show what we can do and get this moving and turn this thing around. …I don't want to see these numbers static and we share the same view. We don't want to see it in dynamic mode and keeps going south. …We'll make sure the next round of data collection we will be better and more easily accessible," he said.

Babauta said that CNMI leaders should study the BEA data and revisit the forum for economic and labor development they held earlier in the year to come up with a plan to resuscitate the economy.

"We should realize that what we are looking at here are 2008 and 2009 figures. People in the CNMI have lived through this decline in the economy. These numbers don't tell the story but it helps quantify the pain that has been felt by the community. I think it also begins to develop a better picture of how and where the business community needs to move forward and in some large measure help in developing a plan," said Babauta.

To this end, the OIA official promised the help of the agency's economist, Wally Osman, to help develop an economic plan for the CNMI.

Babauta was joined in the Governor Office and Legislature presentations by Osman, BEA Industry Sector Division chief Nicole M. Mayerhauser and BEA National Income and Wealth Division manager Aya Hamano.

The CNMI's GDP showed a 4.2 percent average annual decline between 2002 and 2007, according to the first GDP estimates report on the CNMI, released on May 5, 2010.

UNRULY

From Page 1

kicking the seat in front of him.

The report did not mention what made him angry and whether Sawada and the passenger were related.

The female flight attendant went over to Sawada and tried to calm him down.

The passenger tried to hold the defendant to keep him from punching the windows, but he continued to do so. That's when the flight attendant notified the captain. It was decided to put physical restraints on Sawada and to move him to a different seat away from the window.

The attendant stated that during her encounter with him, Sawada kicked her several times.

After the physical restraints were put on, Sawada continued to kick and bang his head on the seat.

Right before landing, Sawada got out of his seat and stood up. The attendant rushed to him to put his seat belt back on.

The other flight attendant stated that she heard loud noises and bangs coming from the business class cabin. When the second flight attendant checked the business class cabin, she saw Sawada and the passenger struggling with each other.

The passenger had her arms wrapped around Sawada, while the defendant was kicking and yelling. The defendant was also throwing his body against the window.

The second flight attendant asked help from two male passengers who assisted the flight attendants to physically restrain Sawada.

Sawada was moved to a different seat. Flight attendants also had to move five passengers. They asked two male passengers to sit next to Sawada to watch him and moved elderly passengers away from him.

SABLAN

From Page 1

Sablan's letter states that acting principal Cherlyn Cabrera will take over all of Garrison's unfinished work and reminds him to turn over all transition materials to the official in charge. Garrison was also advised to submit all necessary documents to the Human Resource Office for processing.

Garrison quit his job last week, citing irreconcilable differences with Sablan.

Yesterday, Garrison described Sablan's action as a clear "retaliation" after he voiced out his opinion regarding Sablan's leadership style. He said he is reviewing the board's policy on administrative leaves.

"She just wanted to get rid off me. It's now obvious that she's retaliating," Garrison told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sablan, during yesterday's interview with reporters on Capital Hill, expressed surprise about the statements made by Garrison pertaining to their irreconcilable differences. She refused to further comment on the issue, saying the resignation had been received and was accepted by her office.

Resignation letter

In his resignation letter to Sablan, Garrison cited many reasons for his dissatisfaction that led to his resignation.

"I have been reflecting on the many things we discussed [during the one-on-one interview] and the points I had tried to convey as both a school leader, and one whose history in the system has always been at the largest schools, thus assuming the greatest responsibilities. However, aside from all of that I am still at a loss for the feeling of critical support in professional and personal growth, management, or otherwise equity within the ranks of principal," said Garrison in his letter, adding that he came to a point where he just does not feel that the system will ever be reciprocal in terms of equity among schools.

"Your office seems to think that a systems approach is 'treating everyone the same,' and that is not true. The fact is a systems approach requires effective school leaders and/or district superintendents to have a key understanding of the many different systems operating within the organizational unit and as such they will need to be treated differently. The example is clear, as a school with only 100 pupils is far different in both need and responsibility than that of one which is 1,400. To remind you again, MHS is twice the size of any school in the district and will likely be even larger next year. My suggestion is that the system identify with that concept as it is clear from what I have found out this last year at MHS that the system, and not simply the previous principal, is the reason the school was in such a state of disrepair and disenfranchisement," added Garrison in the letter, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Garrison's letter indicated that "irreconcilable differences in both the management decisions and actions taken by the Office of the Commissioner as my primary reason for the writing of this letter."

Northern Islands under a tropical storm watch

» Tropical storm Ma-On expected to become typhoon today

The Northern Islands were placed under tropical storm watch yesterday morning after a tropical depression in the area intensified into a tropical storm.

The National Weather Service in Guam and the CNMI Emergency Management Office announced at 8am yesterday that a tropical storm watch is now in effect for Agrihan, Pagan, and Alamagan.

As of 1pm yesterday, tropical storm Ma-On was moving west-northwest at 10 miles per hour, packing maximum sustained winds at 60 mph.

At the time, the center was 430 miles east-northeast of Pagan, 430 miles east of Agrihan, 435 miles east-northeast of Alamagan, 530 miles northeast of Saipan, and 655 miles northeast of Guam.

NWS predicts the tropical storm to become a typhoon this morning, Thursday.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos advised the public including those on Pagan and Alamagan to closely follow the progress and evolution of the tropical storm through the EMO and local media.

Tropical Storm Ma-On is expected to pass about 175 miles north of Pagan around noon today, Thursday.

NWS advises people in the Northern Islands to take preliminary steps to protect life and property before the arrival of damaging winds, which are possible today, Thursday.

"Be prepared to take shelter if a tropical storm warning is issued possibly on short notice," NWS said.

At 7am yesterday, Tropical Storm Ma-On was moving west-northwest at 9 mph with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. EMO said heavy showers and scattered thunderstorms caused by Ma-On will produce heavy rains in the CNMI Thursday throughout Friday. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Inos: Govt will earmark $10M for the Fund next fiscal year

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said the Fitial administration will set aside $10 million to pay for government employee contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund for fiscal year 2012.

He said the line-item budget is made to follow the Fund's new directive that increased employee contribution from 37.9 percent to 60 percent. Inos, however, admitted that the cash-strapped CNMI government will find it hard to sustain the new rate.

"The Fund came out with a directive that the employee contribution rate beginning Oct. 1 of fiscal year 2012 would be 60 percent—that's 60 cents for every dollar of payroll in the [defined benefit] plan and that's not sustainable," he said.

As it stands, the government is only funding 30 percent of the original 37.9 percent employer contribution, Inos said.

"So the difference is considered deficient which the general fund is absorbing and its part of the deficit. …At this point we budgeted $10 million for employee contribution. It's all a function of the payroll cost. The $10 million could mean we might already achieve the 60 percent depending on the payroll cost," he said.

The $10 million set aside for employee contributions to the Fund is expected to have an adverse effect on the government's funding for the next fiscal year.

The Fitial administration is looking at a budget of $102 million in fiscal year 2012, which will fund 1,779 fulltime employees.

The local court ruled in June 2009 that the central government owes the Fund over $231 million in unpaid employer's contributions. This amount has increased to over $300 million. Negotiating panels from both the Fund and the administration are working on a payment plan to satisfy this court judgment. Besides remitting the necessary taxes, the government was also mandated to pay a higher contribution rate.

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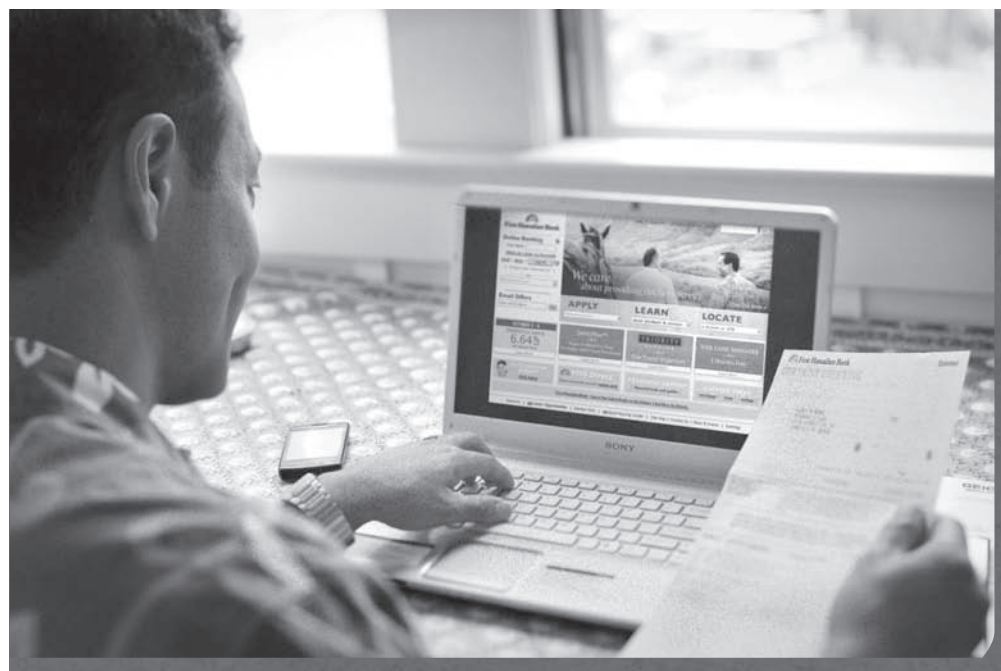

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Inos OKs $7.4M technology plan for public schools

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Acting governor Eloy Inos, center, is flanked by Board of Education chair Marylou Ada, right, and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, left, after the signing yesterday of the Public School System's Technology Plan for 2012-2015. Others in photo are members of the education leadership team and PSS officials.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy Inos signed yesterday the Public School System's technology plan that aims to secure $7.4 million in total funding for school year 2012 through 2015.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, along with Board of Education members and other PSS officials, presented to Inos the 87-page grant application that will be submitted to the School and Library Division.

The technology plan requires the approval of the Executive Branch and the lieutenant governor was the designated signatory of the document, according to Sablan.

A PSS executive committee put together the plan by seeking comments from all public schools and collating all submitted documents. The Board of Education approved the plan on June 30.

Joe Torres, PSS E-rate coordinator, said yesterday that the plan establishes clear goals and a realistic strategy for using telecommunications and information technology to improve education or library services.

The plan has a professional development strategy to ensure that staff knows how to use the new technologies and also includes an assessment of telecommunications services, hardware, software, and other services that will be needed to improve education.

It also has an evaluation process that enables the school or library to monitor progress toward specific goals and make mid-course corrections in response to new developments and opportunities as they arise.

According to federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, once approved, the Schools and Library Division will pay for 85 percent of the entire technology cost of the plan; the remainder will be covered by the local budget of the school system.

Board member Herman T. Guerrero said the plan will help PSS give equal learning opportunities to students on three islands through its distance learning program.

Based on the plan, PSS expects to complete all network upgrades by 2015. This includes an overall network restructure, activation of additional bandwidth, and replacement of current video teleconferencing equipment. In addition, the system will also install a central wireless system at all junior and high school and will implement a longitudinal database system to improve the quality and accessibility of federal and local reporting needs. The educational technology plan needs $2.477 million in the first year of implementation.

The commissioner said the plan is based on the BOE-approved CNMI Technology Program standards and benchmarks.

New magazine promises to feature best of islands

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Bison Relations launched Tuesday night its new quarterly magazine, *Tops +More*, with managing editor Ulysses Sabuco promising to feature whatever is the best on the islands—whether it be food, hotel resorts, and even education.

"We talk about what is best but also what is local. *Tops* magazine's birth was a product of something we're trying to come up with which is something truly local and genuinely CNMI—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," he said during the cocktail party introducing the new medium at Giovanni's of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

For its first issue, the magazine features the local sweet potato, *kamote*, on the front cover with exquisite plating by Hyatt executive chef Gabriel Colombo and up-and-coming chef de cuisine Zenn Tomomake.

"The magazine is about everything and anything on the island. The magazine's first issue wants to feature great-tasting local food and beverage on island. *Kamote* on the cover is eye-catching. It's something that has never been done before," said Sabuco.

Publisher Wayne Pangelinan said the magazine is all about optimism.

"*Tops +More* is not just about putting out a feature on food or writing a story. We are putting out something optimistic but is tied by one common thread. For instance, food is featured in the first issue. But it will not always be about food. The main subject changes with every publication. Our next issue will be focusing on technology and education," he said.

Tops Plus More is a quarterly magazine and has a circulation of 7,500. The contributors in its June issue include Kanae Quinn and Gonzalo Pangelinan while core group members are Derwin C. Johnson, James Lee, Emilinda Cabrera, Kameisha Padilla, and Jose Padilla.

MARK RABAGO

Tops Plus More publisher Wayne Pangelinan, fourth from left, poses with the new magazine's staff and core group members. From left, James Lee, executive marketing manager Donna Liwag Rivera, Derwin C. Johnson, Pangelinan, Emelinda Cabrera, and managing editor Ulysses Sabuco.

Hocog is students' rep on Education Board

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy Inos appointed Mary M. Hocog yesterday as the new students' representative on the Board of Education, replacing Joycelynn Atalig from Rota.

Hocog

Hocog is a senior student at Tinian High School and is currently off-island, according to his principal, Julian Hofschneider, yesterday.

Her term is effective immediately and will run through the duration of her enrollment in public school.

"The Board of Education plays a vital role in ensuring the best education possible for our students. I am confident that you will make a valuable contribution, and we appreciate your willingness to serve and provide input from a student's point of view," said Inos in his transmittal letter to the board.

Hocog will serve as a non-voting member of the board. The position does not require the advice and consent of the Senate.

Inos made the appointment at the recommendation of Education Commissioner Rita Sablan and board members.

Board chair Marylou Ada said yesterday that she expects Hocog to actively participate in board meetings and activities.

Sablan welcomed Hocog's appointment and vowed to work with her in promoting collaboration and teamwork among youth and school organizations on three islands.

Saipan Tribune learned that Hocog is a consistent honor student. She is an active member or officer of various academic and youth groups and has participated in several academic competitions here and off-island. In 2009, Hocog participated in the JROTC Leadership Symposium/Academic Bowl held at the George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Four cadets, including Hocog, competed against 300 cadets from all over the nation in an academic challenge bowl. From 2006 through 2010, Hocog was a consistent participant in the annual Chamorro language competition in Guam and had received numerous awards.

Hirshbein is new VFW commander for Pacific areas

On June 16, 2011, Barry Hirshbein from Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, was installed as the commander of the Department of Pacific Areas, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The Pacific Areas is one of 54 departments located around the world.

Hirshbein will lead more than 10,000 VFW members in the Pacific Areas. The area is composed of seven Districts and 27 VFW Posts in Okinawa, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Cambodia, Guam, CNMI, and the Philippines.

With around 1.5 million members, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is the largest combat veterans' organization in the world. VFW provides services to veterans, their families, widows, and orphans. VFW tries to ensure that those who served our country receive the benefits and services they need and deserve.

Hirshbein

VFW also works to make sure that our active duty servicemen and women have the resources needed to carry out their missions safely and effectively. Through "Operation Uplink" the VFW has provided over 5.5 million free phone connections home for deployed troops and hospitalized veterans. The "Unmet Needs" program has given more than $4 million in cash grants toward emergency financial aid to over 2,800 military families and the "Military Assistance Program" has helped host nearly 2 million military families at events worldwide.

The VFW also promotes youth development, scholarship, and Americanism. The VFW awards millions of dollars a year through scholarship programs. The Voice of Democracy audio-essay program awards $2.2 million in scholarships to high school students. Patriot's Pen, Junior High essay contest awards $1.2 million in scholarships. ***(VFW)***

ON THE NET

- Veterans of Foreign Wars: www.vfw.org.
- Department of Pacific Areas website: www.vfwdeptpacific.org.

HELPING THE HUMANITIES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delta Air Lines has donated a round-trip Saipan-Japan ticket to the NMI Council for the Humanities in support of the Council's 20th anniversary. Pictured from left are Delta Sales and Marketing representatives Esther F. Sound and Christopher A. Conception and Humanities Council board members Rose T. Ada-Hocog, Joann T. Aquino and Susana B. Deleon Guerrero. Delta's donation will be raffled at the Council's 20th Anniversary Fundraiser to be held at Pacific Islands Club starting at 6pm on Friday, Aug. 12. In addition to great raffle prizes, the fundraiser will include a summer cocktail menu, all you can drink beer and wine, special remarks by Fr. Eric Forbes, and an auction of unique works of art by local artists. Tickets for this event may be purchased at the Council office in Gualo Rai or from Council board and staff members. All proceeds will go to support Council programs.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Shacey Sablan! May today be filled with sunshine and smiles, laughter and love. Enjoy your day &and we love you. Greeting come from Nina Tasia, Liyah, Nasia, Junior, and your Ramangmou/ Sablan family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday, Tinon Ramangmou! May each and every passing year bring you wisdom, peace, and cheer. May this day bring to you all things that make you smile. Have a great day and we love you. Greetings come from Tasia and the kids and your entire Aldan/Ramangmou family.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-044

LOAN SERVICING & RELATED COLLECTION ACTION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified collection agencies to provide loan servicing and related collection actions in Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 100.00 (non-refundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **July 19, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-044, Loan Servicing & Related Collection Action", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 9 ,2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **July 22, 2011** to Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email Charles_Warren@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply via email mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Zoning Board
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Zoning Officer

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Officer. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Process permit applications including reviewing applications for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations; Conduct field surveys to inspect compliance with the Zoning Law and to collect land use information; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the zoning program and permit requirements; Gather information to update the GIS; Maintain detailed records of all actions, using paper and electronic media; Update permit information on the database; Other duties as required.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from an accredited two-year college or university with an AA Degree. The following professional experience may substitute for the AA Degree: A minimum of 3 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends; Ability to speak in Chamorro or Carolinian a plus. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary is $28,000.00. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to Theresa T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Please Send submittals to: E-mail: Bing.Taitano@zoning.gov.mp or by Hand Delivery to Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at 4:30pm.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TAGS to host 'Jersey Shore'-themed party

TAGS, a non-profit organization that seeks to aid sea turtle conservation efforts on Saipan, is hosting the party event of the year, "The Jersey Shore Party."

The party will be held on July 16, Saturday, starting at 7pm at Joe's Bar "The Steak House" (formerly Remingtons) located in Garapan. There will be a $7 cover charge.

The event will feature contest such as a booty shaking contest, a condom balloon contest, as well as whoever has the most awesome outfit. TAGS will be auctioning off three guys and three girls with dinner at either Saipan Grand Hotel or Hyatt Regency Saipan!

The Jersey Shore Party will be emceed by Brad Ruszala, with music by DJ Sly. This party is sponsored by Docomo Pacific, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, MARPAC, and the Turtle Advocate Guidance Society. ***(PR)***

Dog licensing resumes

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan has reopened its dog control program, "Dog Tag License Registration," this week, from July 11 to 22.

Registration will take place at the Mayor of Saipan compound in Chalan Kanoa (behind the post office) from 9am to 4pm (open during lunch hours).

Pet owners are advised to first pay the fees at either the CNMI Treasury on Capital Hill, Superior Court in Susupe, or Tax and Revenue in Dandan then proceed to the registration site. Applications are available at the cashiers. Fill out the application per dog to expedite the process. ***(PR)***

Air Force training on FDM, Warning Area-517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- July 14, from 1pm to 3am
- July 15, from 8am to 10pm

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(USN)***

Veterans employment coordinator to conduct workshops

Guam Department of Labor Disable Veterans Outreach Program coordinator Jackie Nguyen will be conducting employment information workshops from July 14 to 20 in the CNMI. The DVOP is responsible for Guam, the CNMI, and American Samoa. She will also be available to meet with veterans and family members individually to answer questions.

Nguyen's schedule is as follows:

- July 14-16 on Saipan from 9am to 4pm at the WIA office in Capital Hill
- July 14, on Saipan from 7am to 9am, VFW at the VFW headquarters
- July 17-18 on Tinian from 9am to 4pm at the Tinian Municial Council's Office
- July 19-20 on Rota, 9am-4pm at the WIA Office.

For further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/ Veterans affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach on July 25-29

Tina San Agustin, Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Legal Administrative Specialist from Guam and the Northern Marian Islands, will be on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota from July 25 to 29 for Veterans Outreach on Veterans Federal Benefits.

She will be also be entertaining veterans questions and assist with claims. Agustin's schedule is a follows:

- July 25, 8:30am-4:30pm on Rota at the WIA office
- July 26-27, 8:30-4:30 on Tinian at the Tinian Municipal Council's office
- July 28-29, 8:30-4:30 on Saipan at the Military/ Veterans Affairs office on Capitol Hill, building 1364.

If you wish to make an appointment or for further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/ Veterans affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Hopwood grade 6 and 7 open registration set

The open registration for seventh and eighth grade levels of Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School is set from July 11 to July 29. Parents and guardians of enrolling students should provide the school with all the necessary documents to avoid any problem in the processing of their child's enrollment. Any new or transfer students must also provide proper documents to prevent any delay in their processing. For more information, contact the school at 237-3422/3395/3421. ***(PR)***

Enrollment info for Kagman High

To all returning Kagman High School students, parents and guardians: All students must register anew for school year 2011-2012, even if you went to KHS this last school year. The school is updating its records and everyone must re-register or they will not receive a class schedule for the school year. Register before Aug. 19 for optimum scheduling. Registration forms can be picked up from the registrar or in the main office. For more information, call 237 3840 or 237 3886. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Biba kompliaños to Dan Worswick, Eva Calvo, and Jerry Benavente, who are simultaneously celebrating their birthdays today, July 14. Wishing you all many more years of love, peace, and good health. Cheers from your Calvo family in As Lito.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank James I. Sablan and
Janerlinse S. Sablan
P.O. Box 504573
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (H) 234-5927
(C) 285-7758

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: R.S.S.J.
Minor Child,

by

FRANK JAMES I. SABLAN,
Petitioner.

FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 11 - 0301

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before the Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 12th day of July, 2011.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Reynaldo O. Yana
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 500052
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-6529

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE CUSTODY
OF: JOHN RYAN SIMAN MONDANO (a minor child),
BY: FLORENCIA SIMAN SALTIN (maiden name: Florencia Miran Siman),
Petitioner,
vs.
JOSE ARIEL GUILLERMER MONDANO,
Respondent.

CASE NO. 11-0206-FCD

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file an answer you wish to make to the petitioner's complaint, a copy of which is in the file with the Clerk of Courts or in the file with the Attorney General, within twenty (20) days from the date of the fourth publication of this summons by publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to REYNALDO O. YANA, the petitioner's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 500052 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk if Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the plaintiff's complaint.

By the order of the above Court.

Bernadita S. Sablan, Clerk of Courts
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court
Dated this May 31, 2011

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP11-DEQ-093

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 17, 2011 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"MARIANA ISLANDS BLEACHING RESPONSE FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY, GUALO RAI CENTER, SUTE 101 FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., EXCEPT OF CNMI LEGAL HOLIDAYS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MR. FRANK M. RABAULIMAN, DIRECTOR OF DEQ AT (670) 664-8500 NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 05, 2011.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP11-DEQ-111

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 17, 2011 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"PERFORMANCE OF ASTM PHASE II ENVIROMENTAL SITE ASSESSMET FOR SOIL & GROUNDWATER OF POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED BROWNFIELD SITES ON SAIPAN, CNMI"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DEQ OFFICE OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.**

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED AT **10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME ON AUGUST 02, 2011** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM, (RM 205).

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PRJECT MA BY FAXE DTO MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER SITE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION BRANCH AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO raymasga@deq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 05, 2011.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 14, 1999

AGO seeks OK of new criminal code

Legislators were undecided yesterday whether to approve a recently-completed Criminal Code for the Commonwealth and instead sought more time to review the 600-page comprehensive proposal from the Attorney General's Office. But most members of the Legislature hailed efforts to revise the current 40-year old statute, saying the present situation needs fresher and clearer laws to deal with more complex and heinous crimes on the island. "The consolidation of all the statutes on criminal offenses presents a very clear and useful tool for government attorneys government as well as for private attorneys," said Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes. "I think it is a step in the right direction."

Teno unperturbed by plans to cut CIP grants

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday brushed aside a plan by the U.S. Congress to divert some $5.52 million out of the Capital Improvement Project funds that have been committed to the Northern Marianas, to the Virgin Islands for the next fiscal year. He assured the move would not hamper efforts by his administration to tap millions of dollars in federal construction grants, saying the CNMI would still receive a total of $77 million from Washington under the CIP program between 1996 to 2002. "We have a complete seven-year CIP plan and we are updating the plan as we go along. We will be using the federal funds as we find matching funds," Tenorio told reporters.

July 14, 2000

House to review changes to Omnibus bill

The Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act may go through another round of review in the House of Representatives to consider amendments made by the Senate, according to acting Speaker Oscar M. Babauta. He also raised the possibility of a bicameral conference if the lower house rejects the changes to HB 12-39 as he stressed the need to gauge its impact to the business community. "If we are convinced that [business leaders] are very content, we will proceed with the passage and we'll handle the other reform measures that were omitted by the Senate," Mr. Babauta told reporters in an interview yesterday.

CDA upbeat on multiplier effect of $60-M bond

The CNMI government is upbeat on the possible multiplier effect of the $60-million municipal bond that is expected to be floated either next month or in September to finance major infrastructure projects under the Section 702 of the Covenant. Development Authority Board Chair John S. Tenorio said the $60 million bond, which will be used to match federal grants for Capital Improvement Projects, may translate to over $400 million in fresh money circulating within the Northern Marianas economy in a four-year period. Tenorio said the CNMI inevitably needs these projects, citing the value of the stimulus these new infrastructure activities are anticipated to create on the local economy. The Governor's CIP Task Force has completed the seven-year spending plan for $154 million in new capital infrastructure projects.

July 14, 2003

USDE urged to check WASC

Unsatisfied with the explanation given by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, a Saipan lawmaker has now called on U.S. Department of Education Secretary Rod Paige to intervene and look at the commission's "unsubstantiated threats of sanctions and conflicting opinions" on issues relating to the Northern Marianas College. In a three-page June 11 letter, House Ways And Means Committee chair Rep. Stanley Torres called on Paige to intervene in what he described as a "distressful situation" at NMC. The lawmaker, who has been critical of the present NMC leadership, said the USDE's National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity may be able to assist on his concerns.

HR group to offer job description workshop

The Society for Human Resource Management has invited Frank Gibson from the Office of Personnel Management to give a two-and-a-half-hour interactive workshop on job descriptions. Gibson will explain the purpose of a job description, how we should use it, where we get the information to create one, who should prepare, approve and maintain job descriptions, and other important information related to job descriptions. Each participant will also receive hands-on experience in preparing a sample job description.

Pacific

Chuuk's sewage, power problems a tall order

» New team at utility company assessing multitude of problems

By BILL JAYNES
THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

WENO, Chuuk—Vehicles often drive through it as it washes down the streets. Children sometimes are forced to wade through it on their way to and from school. The reek and inherent biohazard has sometimes driven families from their homes and its mere presence has forced temporary school closures. The problem of sewage handling has long been a problem in Weno. This is not new news.

"There are places in Chuuk that when you walk around it stinks; and one of the reasons is because the smell is coming from the sewage lines. Perhaps someone should take some of that water, go to CPUC's office and pour it on the office floor so your executives and employees can walk around in it like many children on Weno," an angry email delivered to Chuuk Public Utility Company's chief executive officer this weekend said. The citizen sent a copy of the email to The Kaselehlie Press. "I apologize if this ruffles feathers at CPUC, but my shoes smell of sewage water and I had to bathe with disinfectant yesterday," the email concluded.

"You are absolutely right to raise these issues," CPUC CEO Mark Waite responded. "I appreciate the contact."

The management team at the beleaguered utility company has been in place since October 2010 with the mandate of turning the unprofitable and essentially unsuccessful utilities corporation into a viable business operation that meets the everyday utilities needs of its customers. The challenge is enormous and will not only involve investments of several million dollars in infrastructure but a reinvention of CPUC business practices.

It's a tall order. The management team has been given two years to accomplish the task, or at least to set tracks that lead CPUC to a happy future destination for all of the citizens of Weno. So far the team is 8 months in and after spending six months evaluating the team has begun to lay those tracks in a proper direction.

"I understand your frustration to the apparent lack of action in relation to sewage management," Waite prefaced his return email that described for the concerned citizen CPUC's action plans and challenges regarding the problem.

He said that during the management team's evaluation phase which concluded in March they found that the sewage lines in the 'Blue Lagoon' area have been blocked for a very long time. To unblock them would require "specialist equipment" such as high pressure jetting hoses, air blowers and essential safety equipment for confined space entry for CPUC employees.

Certainly safety equipment is vital for CPUC employees. Methane gases can be deadly in high concentration such as can be found inside the confined spaces of sewers and cesspools.

Last week U.S. news sources reported the deaths of a teenager who had fallen into a cesspool along with another teen who attempted to rescue the first by lowering himself into the cesspool. Both lost consciousness within moments after entering that confined space filled with methane gas.

Waite said that in March, after CPUC got confirmation of access to capital funds they ordered the necessary equipment. He said that the equipment should arrive sometime this month. Once it does CPUC will start to deal with the unblocking of the lines in the Blue Lagoon area as a high priority.

While the project in the Blue Lagoon area will kill off a serious and long term problem regarding waste management, power is still an issue and it affects the management of "lift stations." Lift stations are electrically powered pumping centers designed to move sewage through the pipes when gravity can't do it due to elevations. Fluids cannot pump themselves uphill.

"As you probably know, we have to ration power supply along the feeder to Blue Lagoon and the feeder to out past the airport to Sapuk. This means that we can't exhaust our lift stations when we should," Waite wrote.

He said that CPUC has crews on duty every day to pump sewage through the system. The company has also ordered some automatic level switches that would automatically start when the fluid level reaches a certain point but those solutions will only consistently work when power is consistent in Weno.

A good start will be made on consistent power in Weno after new generators arrive. Currently delivery is expected on those generators by October of this year. If identified revenue collection problems have also been resolved by that time Chuuk power could be much more constant after those generators are installed.

Waite said that a third problem is that Weno's sewer system is designed to handle sewage flow only. It can't handle the additional strain of rain water that often comes in deluges. "Whenever there is rain we get infiltration into the sewer system, the volume of which is significantly higher than the designed flow of the sewer and it is principally this that causes water to bubble out of the manholes in the road," Waite wrote.

Waite said that another problem is that the sewage removal system also has sporadic problems with the road construction along which the new sewer system is following. Sometimes the process of construction damages the existing sewers. Additionally construction crews have to occasionally cut off the old sewer in order to make connections to the new sewer.

CPUC is "in pretty much constant touch with EPA responding to their demands to clear up the issues you raise," Waite responded to the concerned citizen's email. He said that CPUC knows about the problems and is dealing with them as best and as quickly as they can. "We have plans in place to remove the problems and will do that as soon as we have the wherewithal."

Further email exchanges between Waite and the concerned citizen were congenial once information was shared.

CPUC's Board of Directors received a copy of every email exchange though none of them made any comment on the thread of communication that we received.

Waite also copied the email stream to Mr. Bob Nelson who is working under a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior on behalf of the board and the State of Chuuk to assess the management team performance. "I'm sure he would be interested to hear your point of view on this and other issues," Waite wrote.

Waite agreed with the concerned citizen that while the CPUC management team had talked internally about how they should communicate their plans and progress with the citizens of Weno they had not yet addressed it properly.

That's another tall order. CPUC's options for communicating with the public are extremely limited as local media resources are nearly non-existent.

"Please feel free to print whatever you think is going on. We don't have anything to hide," Waite wrote to The Kaselehlie Press.

Last female Marianas crow dies

» Two males face extinction in Guam

File photo shows a Marianas crow on Rota.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The last female Marianas crow in Guam has died leaving just two males from the species on the island.

The Marianas crow, or Aga in Chamorro, is found only in Guam and the Northern Marianas island of Rota.

The last female, called Mochong, was about 12 years old and died of kidney failure.

A wildlife biologist at Guam's Department of Agriculture, Cheryl Calaustro, says it's a major blow to their conservation efforts.

"This is very sad for us, because [it's] one of the species we've been trying very hard to get back on Guam, it's like it's a losing battle for us. As you know, in Guam, it's quite unfortunate that we do have the brown tree snake, which has been the root of many of Guam's extinctions."

Calaustro says they're looking at bringing in female crows from Rota.

Scientists keep close eye on Vanuatu volcano

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Geohazard experts in Vanuatu have set up extra monitoring equipment around the increasingly active Ambae volcano.

A geohazard technical advisor with the Vanuatu government, Sylvain Todman, says nearby villagers are worried about the volcano's increasing explosions and ash falls.

He says a team's been dispatched to keep an eye on the volcano over the next week and seismic sensors have been set up on the east and west of the island.

"It's one of the most dangerous volcanoes on Vanuatu and there are many people around this volcano and the activity could increase very fast so we need to be as close as possible to notice any change in the activity."

Sylvain Todman says the volcano's level of activity may be upgraded from level one to level two which means people living within a five kilometre radius would have to move.

Solomons hospital blackout puts patients at risk

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Times/PIR)—In the Solomon Islands, lives were at risk at the National Referral Hospital late last night following a power blackout that lasted for almost an hour.

The power blackout left nurses and doctors scrambling for backup oxygen cylinders fearing the worst for some patients.

"Lives were at risk and the authorities must seriously address power problems at the Central Hospital," said Victoria Harurihu, a senior nurse aide at the labour ward.

Mrs. Harurihu says at least five women were in labour last night. "It was a terrible situation as we badly need electricity to successfully conduct our midwifery duties."

Mrs. Jennifer Iniakwala, a nurse at the special care nursery for new born babies, said that had it not been for standby oxygen cylinders, lives would have been lost.

She said that three babies were being supplied with oxygen from the standby cylinder during the power outage last night. She stated that had there been more babies in their care last night it would have been a fatal situation.

Mrs. Iniakwala calls on responsible authorities to address this problem as it presents risks to the lives of babies as well as all sick patients within the National Referral Hospital.

Authorities at the National Referral Hospital are yet to establish why the power outage had lasted for almost an hour last night. Although sources close to the authorities say it may be due to a faulty backup generator.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Palau oil spill taints Peleliu mangroves, water

KOROR, Palau (Island Times/PIR)—The oil spill that was discovered last week in Aimeliik was due to a damaged pipe at the Aimeliik Power Plant, Palau Public Utilities Corporation explained yesterday. PPUC Safety Officer Vicente Pua said that upon inspection of the pipe, there were no signs that somebody tried to damage it. "The pipe is too old and corroded. Nobody destroyed it," Pua said. Pua said that on Monday and Tuesday, APP people were preparing the dock area for the arrival of a tanker but they did not find any leak on the pipe. The pipe that leaked is used to transfer fuel to Peleliu boat. Pua said that three small holes were found on the pipe where oil was flowing down to the ground. "It was not just dripping," he said. Because of the rainy weather and strong winds last week, the fuel spilled into the mangrove area and into the water.

Taiwan presents $2.8 million check to Marshalls

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Yokwe/PIR)—Ambassador George T.K. Li presented the Republic of China (Taiwan) grant of US$2,750,000, for first quarter 2011, to Republic of the Marshall Islands' Minister of Finance Jack Ading, during an afternoon ceremony on July 6 at the Ministry's offices in Majuro, Marshall Islands. One-third of the Grant monies is designated for RMI General Fund budgetary support while the balance will fund a wide-variety of RMI government agencies and maintenance projects. The ROC (Taiwan) Embassy in Majuro expressed its wishes, on behalf of the People of Taiwan and the ROC Government, that the grant "would contribute to the welfare of the people of the Marshall Islands and the prioritized projects of the RMI Government."

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Joblessness, not deficit, is our national crisis

There's no sugarcoating it: The employment report released Friday was a disaster, with just 18,000 net jobs created in June. And there's no reason to think the coming months will be any better.

And yet all politicians in Washington can talk about is deficit reduction. There is a frightening disconnect between the problems Americans face and the problems our lawmakers are trying to solve.

The federal deficit is a very real, very serious issue. But it's not the most serious or most urgent problem the nation faces now. Unemployment is.

Last month, 14.1 million Americans who wanted a job couldn't find one. More than 6 million of them had been out of work for six months or more.

These are catastrophic numbers, and not just for the immediate future. A study of workers after the 1982 recession showed that even decades later, they were earning as much as 20 percent less than peers who remained employed. That's terrible news for the jobless, but also for the country's long-term fiscal health, because lower earnings mean lower tax revenue and a higher deficit.

Some in Washington seem to think that slashing public payrolls will somehow unleash private-sector job growth. This is lunacy.

There are now 577,000 fewer public-sector workers than there were at the peak in August 2008, the result of declining tax revenue for state and local governments. Can anyone really believe that 577,000 unemployed cops, firefighters, teachers and janitors are a boon to the private sector?

Of course not. Growth is spurred by demand, and firing those workers removed consumer demand from an already weak economy. All of this comes as the Federal Reserve's purchase of $600 billion in Treasury bonds winds down and the effects of stimulus spending wane. The economy needs a boost—now.

President Barack Obama seems to have bought into the premise that austerity will help the economy. That's very disappointing. But he nevertheless has proposed some good solutions, such as extending the payroll tax cut, passing patent reform, approving trade deals and creating an infrastructure bank. These ideas would have attracted bipartisan support pre-tea party, but Republicans now oppose anything that would boost the economy in the short term.

Ambitious ideas such as a big infusion of infrastructure spending or another round of aid to state and local governments seem laughable in this political environment. And yet they're exactly what's needed so that teachers, police and construction workers can keep not only teaching our kids, protecting our communities and so on, but also buying clothes, cars and houses, spurring demand for more workers.

Obama injected some stimulus spending into the tax deal he negotiated in December, including the original payroll tax cut and an extension of unemployment insurance. Friday's grim jobs report should shock him into insisting that short-term help for the economy be part of any deficit reduction deal.

The fate of millions of Americans—and Obama's presidency—is on the line.

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Assessing the space shuttle program

By GEORGE ALEXANDER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I began covering the space shuttle project in 1972, soon after President Nixon authorized it. I had recently joined the *Los Angeles Times* as a science writer. And the country was enthusiastic about the idea of a reusable spacecraft, which was expected to be sturdy, economical and reliable.

The shuttle turned out to be neither economical nor sturdy, and its reliability has been wobbly. But as I watched the shuttle *Atlantis* blast off into space on what will be the 135th and final space shuttle mission, I found myself feeling a bit nostalgic.

I was at Cape Canaveral for the shuttle *Columbia*'s first flight in April 1981, and I covered many other shuttle missions. Launches were always exhilarating, but they also meant exhausting work schedules. Afraid to miss something, we "newsies" sat up at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, where Mission Control was located, drinking terrible coffee and waiting for the intermittent crackle of an astronaut's voice from orbit.

Sometimes a report was designed for mass consumption. On the first shuttle flight, astronaut John Young spoke in a televised broadcast from *Columbia*'s cabin. "I think we really have something that's going to mean (a lot) to the nation and to the world," he said.

But most of the communications from on high were terse, cryptic comments in a lingua franca known only to astronauts and the mission controllers: To the journalists, these fragmentary transmissions sounded something like this:

"Houston, OK, we've got the maguffin aligned and are about to activate it."

"Roger."

"But it looks like it's reading a little high."

"Copy that."

With luck, there might be a NASA public affairs person who could translate for us, but more often than not, we'd have to wait for the change-of-shift briefing to find out what a "maguffin" was and whether the high reading was newsworthy.

Even before the first shuttle launch, the program had claimed lives. Several weeks before *Columbia* took off, workers entered a nitrogen-filled shuttle chamber during a fuel test. Two of them died.

Of the 134 shuttle missions launched before this final one, two ended in tragedy: *Challenger*, which was engulfed in a fireball 73 seconds after launch in 1986; and *Columbia*, which disintegrated over Texas just 16 minutes before it was due to land at the Cape Canaveral spaceport in 2003.

There were also five missions that came gaspingly close to disaster. In each of them, during the seconds between the start of the shuttle's three liquid-fueled engines and the start of its two huge solid-propellant rocket motors, computers sensed something amiss with the engines and shut everything down, averting almost certain catastrophe.

And at least a dozen other missions could have ended badly, even fatally, because of problems that developed during flight or on take-off or landing. There were damaged heat-shield tiles, a blown tire, brake failure, leaky chemicals.

But in the shuttle program's 30 years of flights, there were also triumphs. The Hubble Space Telescope was launched in 1990, and five later shuttles between 1993 and 2009 were successfully dispatched to repair and refurbish this wonderful instrument. Shuttles launched two planetary probes, Magellan and Galileo, which went on to Venus and Jupiter, respectively.

The five space shuttles—*Columbia, Challenger, Atlantis, Discovery* and *Endeavor*—hauled hundreds of astronauts and 3,500 tons of satellites, deep-space probes, science experiments and prefab segments of the International Space Station into low Earth orbit.

Indeed, over the last decade, *Atlantis, Discovery* and *Endeavor* have been so given over to delivering parts, provisions and people to the station that NASA could well have been excused if it had painted the black-and-white vehicles UPS brown instead.

So, has it been worth it? The loss of 14 men and women aboard *Challenger* and *Columbia*? The $290 billion spent building, testing and operating the vehicles?

There aren't clear answers to these questions. Yes, the shuttles have demonstrated that humans can perform useful work in space. But they have also consumed a vast portion of NASA's budget, especially after the *Challenger* and *Columbia* disasters, when the agency had to come up with billions of dollars and several years of down time to get back on track. Some promising robotic and aeronautical programs were forced to take a back seat to the shuttle program.

In the last two decades, we've gotten markedly different returns on our investments in space: Robots have flown circles around the planets Jupiter and Saturn; rovers have traversed Mars' rusty-red plains; and the Hubble telescope has seen extraordinary objects and processes deep in space. Conversely, the space station, only now being completed, years late and tens of billions of dollars over budget, has yet to show any appreciable results. The shuttle has also had a mixed bag of accomplishments.

Looking back on the shuttle program, I think it's clear that there are valid roles for humans in space, but it's hard not to conclude that some shuttle missions have felt like make-work projects undertaken more to keep astronauts in orbit rather than because they were essential. With the shuttle program's retirement (space station-bound astronauts will ride Russian rockets for the next few years), let's take the time to analyze our goals in space, and then to ask ourselves if sending more humans aloft is really necessary to accomplish them.

George Alexander was the Los Angeles Times' *science writer from 1972 to 1985.*

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The 3+1 Growth Formula

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik coaches businesses through their most challenging transition points so they can jump to the next growth level and progressively realize the vision they have for their company. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

Every business owner should want to grow their business. Growth doesn't only refer to getting bigger, but to also getting better. Before I share the 3+1 Formula, let's look at the core elements of sustained growth. Most growth metrics are measured in dollars that eventually translate into increased profits. If profits are the only focus of a business, it's easy to get a quick boost in profits by simply eliminating some overhead expenses. This can be accomplished by terminating some of your workforce. It will create a short-term solution, but the consequences of this action usually results in your organization providing less service and lower quality, which will eventually lead to fewer sales.

Let's look at the four multipliers of your business: 1) Purpose-driven, 2) Productivity, 3) Performance, and 4) Profitability. You can see that profitability is the outcome from doing the other three multipliers well, but it starts with understanding the purpose of your business, and that can be accomplished by examining your business model, which includes these three major components: 1) Who you serve—customers, 3) What you serve customers—products, and 3) How you serve customers—operations.

You'll notice that all three components focus on service, particularly how you effectively serve your customers better. The central purpose of your business is to create a customer by providing a product that will satisfy a need or want, and then operate in a manner that best serves them.

We can now define business growth as the realization of your mission and making a greater contribution to the community (purpose-driven), finding new and better ways to add value with your limited resources (productivity), becoming consistently strong and more capable in what you do (performance), and increasing the value you offer while keeping costs low (profitability). Each of the four multipliers is centered on a strong customer-focused business culture.

So now you can imagine that every aspect of the three-step growth formula involves your customers. Everything you do in your business should lead to enhance one or more of the following three components. The last one only improves your profitability, but it alone cannot create sustained growth. Here, then, is the 3+1 Formula for sustained business growth:

1. Increase your number of new customers. Your focus should not be to just bring anyone through your business doors, but to identify the specific demographic or psychographic profile of those you want to serve. These are your ideal (perfect) customers. You should know where they live, and then devise a strategy to get more of them to visit and make a purchase.

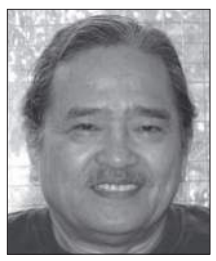
2. Increase the average transaction value. Know how much the average customer spends, and identify the goods and services you can offer that will add more benefits and value to their life. Implement ways to up-sell, or cross-sell other products that would enhance the life of your ideal customers. Have your staff share a short presentation about your company or products to let you customers know why you are different from the competition, and then use a series of questions to ensure that they have everything they need before leaving your business.

3. Increase the number of repeat transactions. Do you know how often your customers return? Do you track the length between purchases, or know when someone has become inactive in their purchases? Sometimes it only takes a letter or phone call to get them to return, or to tell you why they won't be back. Identify how you can operate your business so that it is more convenient, easy, and fun for your ideal customers and encourages them to return more often and remain loyal to your business.

These are the essential three components for sustainable growth because they determine the value you offer to your customers and how much they are willing to spend with your company. All marketing and growth techniques that increase sales can be categorized under one or more of these components. The +1 part of the formula is often the major element that a business owner focuses on first to increase profits. It is important, but by itself it will not create sustainable growth. Here it is:

+ 1. Decrease the costs to efficiently accomplish the three components above. This requires you to optimize all the costs within your business. Identify how to eliminate or minimize the fixed and variable costs that are essential to achieve the three components, while maximizing the actual and intrinsic value you add to your ideal customers. Step back and examine your business and how you currently use the 3+1 Formula, or brainstorm ways you can enhance any of the components to effectively achieve sustainable growth for your business.

From phantom wealth to real wealth



By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Our experience with protest as a methodology for change relies on someone other that one's self to correct the protested situation. In the case of the Marpi poles, the AG and the guv are just their intransigent ornery best! Tina Sablan *et al* appear helpless to do anything about it unless they take the subversive route and either stealthily construct alternative power and water source, or destroy all the CUC-constructed pole, splash them with syrup, and blame their collapse on termites. Adversarial confrontation before a judge is, at best, a delaying tactic, and worst, a further ruffling of entrenched feathers that defensively feels it is under assault.

Besides, it does not deal with the fundamental but unarticulated issue of what the community intends in "developing" Marpi, particularly its public domains.

I begin this reflection on this tone because we are unable to figure out how a world already lucid about the casino-like operation of our financial markets seems unable and unwilling to do anything about it; to shift focus on people as subjects rather than as manipulated objects in the stratified scale of $-denominated wallets.

We do not protest markets and the capitalist free enterprise system. In fact, markets have functioned in the past as a systematic platform for legitimate trade and exchange mechanism of goods and services. It is when services become dominated by the financial market that the role of capital formation takes a back seat to making money on the speculative movement of finances itself.

The free market system envisioned by Adam Smith has no resemblance to the free enterprise promoted by Wall St. characterized by Korten as a bunch of buccaneers and privateers (legalized pirates) whose operation "created an *Alice in Wonderland* phantom-wealth world in which prospective financial claims and the expectations that go with them exceed the value of all the world's real wealth by orders of magnitude." Smith's image was more of an unfettered *Sabalu* market that allows producers and consumers the creativity to conduct human transactions.

Rather brutal in his conclusion that "we can no longer acquiesce to a system of rule by those engaged in the pursuit of phantom wealth far beyond any conceivable need," Korten adds that the system cannot be fixed and it is time to bring economics back to Main St. where the tangible market can serve genuine needs and deal with actual wealth.

Tony Pellegrino's push on the Trade Institute to address labor market needs from local human resource, and his new venture of flying agricultural products where it might make some profit would be steps in the right direction of getting Main St. to handle its own economic requirements. An interdependent global village, as IMF-World Bank has long ago conceded, requires government not to see themselves as competitors in a limited market but rather as collaborators in focusing on the qualitative sustenance and survival of humanity and the planet.

A United Nations University study reveals that the richest 2 percent of the world's people now own 51 percent of all the world's assets. The poorest 50 percent own only 1 percent. This is not a matter of the "poor will always be with us." It is a deliberate effort of the captains of financial markets, at least, in the United States, to "modernize" the economy by deregulating the financial markets and making finance the dominant sector, ensuring the triumph of the haves over the have-nots in a class war reminiscent of the rise of socialist sentiments around the world when oligarchs could whimsically decide fate and destiny of the multitude with the stroke of their bank pens.

So, what can the economics of Sabalu do?

Obviously, attaining self-sufficiency in locally grown and produced food, including local seafood catch, would be high on the priority. There is no reason to be dependent on the food chain originating from the poultry farms of the eastern seaboard, or to meat packers and grain silos in the Midwest. Nor of fruits, nuts and fresh produce of the Far East, Southeast Asia, California, and Central America.

Next would be self-reliance that feeds on open-ended participation in communal, political and educational processes. For the last 10 years, I had not seen one event in the CNMI facilitated to rely on local experience—even on relevant issues of health, education, and welfare; "expertise" imported from Hawaii and lands beyond were called upon. I mean, for heaven's sake, why do we need a university in Mississippi to tell us about the nature of our autistic children's syndrome, and how to deal with them? Parents are already doing that. Why don't we ask them?

Most important, of course, is self-confidence, the acceptance of our acceptance just by virtue of being born into the human race, without having to prove status and integrity through achievement, or worst, the level of deposited amounts in bank accounts. Our *dejado* starting point stems from an inherited story of a couple that munched on a forbidden fruit, rather than the story of our miraculous conception, unique and unrepeatable!

Strengthening local human resource enables Main St. to transform Wall St. into simply another thoroughfare in NYC.

Letter to the Editor

Article 12 is unfair

Buenas yan Hafa Adai! Having read numerous articles and the community debating on Article 12, I would like to share a little of my thoughts regarding this matter. I want Article 12 to be ultimately abolished. Here is why…

First off, when Article 12 was first drafted it was designed as a temporary measure to protect our lands. Section 805 of the Covenant says that it allows the CNMI to revisit its land alienation restrictions after 25 years from terminating the Trusteeship Agreement of 1986.

If not repealed or corrected, it would be unfair for generations to come. Why is it that, if my child marries a Japanese woman and their child marries a Chinese and so forth, my third generation can't inherit my land? Unfair! It states on Article 12 Section 4: A Northern Marianas descent is a person who is a citizen or national of the U.S. and who is of at least one-quarter Chamorro or Carolinian blood or a combination thereof. An adopted child of a Northern Marianas descent shall be considered *full-blooded* Chamorro or Carolinian. For those that would like to have Article 12 retained, here is a question: Do you think it's fair? An adopted child can inherit land but my children's children's children can't inherit my land. This just tells me that in order for my third generation to inherit land, I must adopt them. I don't know if I am the only one seeing this as problematic.

Repealing Article 12 does not mean you have to go and sell your land right away. No! But it gives us the opportunity to decide freely without monkeys on our backs. I want to own my land 100 percent, not 50 percent. I urge each and every youth of the CNMI to take the time to read and learn about this Article 12. It is very important for our future and our children children's future. If we are crying out for change the time is now. My grandfather once told me, *"Lahi-hu yanggen ma na'i hao luggat mungga na un chule dipues un abandona. Yanggen ma na'I hao luggat mailek-na yanggen un kolat."* This means if an opportunity is given to you don't just take it and forget about it. Take it, grab it, embrace it, and make the best of it. Thank you and *Si yu'us maa'se!*

Garren M. Quitugua
Igua/Luta

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°	▲83° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°

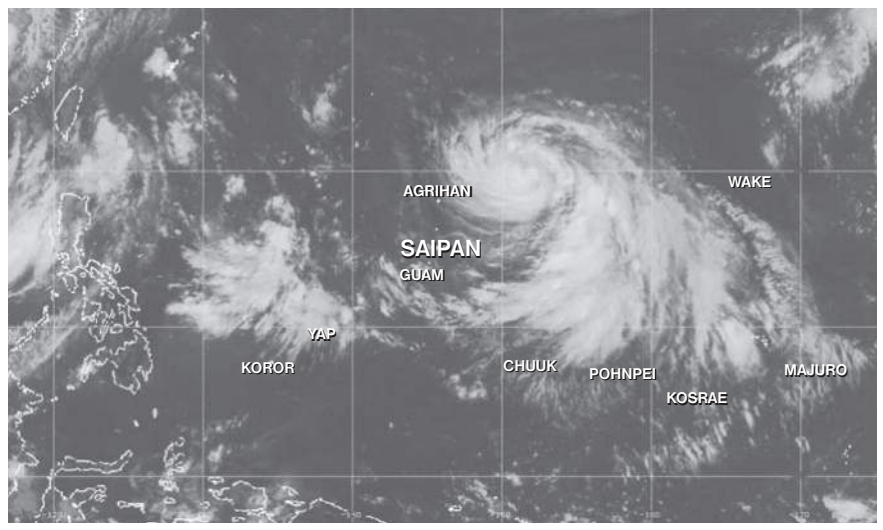
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲83	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲57	▼49
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲90	▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼53
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼40
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼65
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼75
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼52
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼74
Rome	Sunny	▲88	▼70
Salem	Showers	▲70	▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼51
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼73
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼76
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲95	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Ma-on (08W) is centered east of the Marianas at 20N152E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 160 miles of the center of Ma-on. Converging southwest winds southeast of Ma-on are triggering numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marianas within 150 miles of an arc from 20N157E to 16N158E to 13N156E to 9N152E. For more information on Tropical Storm Ma-on, see advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO Header WTPQ31 PGUM and bulletins from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO Header WTPN31 PGTW. Convergent west-northwest winds and divergence from an upper-level low centered west of Guam near 13N140E are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms mainly south of Guam within 50 miles of a line from 11N142E to 11N150E. A low-level circulation is centered north of Koror near 15N134E with a surface trough extending northwestward from the circulation to beyond 130E at 20N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.5 Feet
9:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:58 PM	4:36 AM
Friday	6:47 PM	5:34 AM
Saturday	7:33 PM	6:30 AM
Sunday	8:14 PM	7:23 AM
Monday	8:53 PM	8:14 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

GOP leader says give Obama new debt limit powers

WASHINGTON (AP)—With compromise talks at a vituperative standstill, Senate Republicans unexpectedly offered Tuesday to hand President Barack Obama new powers to avert a first-ever government default threatened for Aug. 2.

Under a proposal outlined by Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, Obama could request increases of up to $2.5 trillion in the government's borrowing authority in three separate installments over the next year, as long as he simultaneously proposed spending cuts of greater size.

The debt limit increases would take effect unless blocked by Congress under special rules that would require speedy action—and even then Obama could exercise his authority to veto such legislation. Significantly, the president's spending cuts would be debated under normal procedures, with no guarantee they ever come to a final vote.

In essence, McConnell's proposal would greatly enhance Obama's authority to avoid a default, while also virtually absolving Republicans of responsibility if one occurred.

At the same time, it would allow Republican lawmakers to avoid having to support an increase in the debt limit, something many of them find odious.

"Republicans will choose a path that actually reflects the will of the people, which is to do the responsible thing and ensure the government doesn't default on its obligations," McConnell said in a speech on the Senate floor. He also excoriated the administration for seeking tax increases along with spending cuts as part of an agreement to raise the debt limit.

His plan drew criticism from GOP presidential contender Newt Gingrich, who quickly tweeted it was "an irresponsible surrender to big government, big deficits and continued overspending."

There was no immediate response to the GOP proposal from the White House, where Obama hosted his third meeting in as many days with congressional leaders struggling to avert a financial crisis.

The talks have revolved around attempts to meet Republican demands for deficit cuts at least as large as any increase in the debt limit. Negotiators have grown testy in recent days as Obama and Democrats pushed for higher tax revenue as part of the deal, a line Republicans say they will not cross.

It was unclear whether McConnell's proposal could show the White House and congressional leaders of both parties a way out of a deadlock that Obama and others said threatened calamitous results for an economy still struggling to recover from the worst recession in decades.

It would obligate Obama to outline deep spending cuts, something Republicans have been trying to force him to do for months without much success.

Reductions as large as $2.5 trillion would almost certainly affect domestic programs seen as important by Democratic constituencies and by rank-and-file lawmakers, possibly including Medicare and Medicaid. Even if the cuts never took effect, Republicans would be able to call for votes, while identifying them as sponsored by the White House.

Any such proposals could also be used by Republicans in the 2012 campaigns, if only to blunt attacks made by Democrats.

The White House talks have been aimed at producing a compromise to cut projected deficits by trillions of dollars over the next decade while renewing the Treasury's authority to resume borrowing.

The government reached its current $14.3 trillion borrowing limit several weeks ago, and Treasury officials have been relying on accounting maneuvers to continue to pay the nation's bills without additional borrowing.

While Obama and Republicans maneuvered for political position, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said during the day that the two parties' debate over deficit reduction "should not be tied to the debt ceiling."

"America's good name and credit are just too important to be held hostage to Washington gridlock," he said in a speech a few miles away from the nation's financial center of Wall Street.

Opinion on entitlements

Though Americans say Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid need an overhaul, they do not support reducing benefits in order to fix the federal budget deficit, state budget shortfalls or financial viability of the programs.

Do entitlements need changes?

	Completely rebuild	Needs major changes	Works pretty well, minor changes
Medicare	21%	33%	38%
Medicaid	17%	37%	39%
Social Security	18%	34%	41%

Reducing deficit vs. keeping benefits

Which is more important?

NOTE: Figures do not total 100 percent due to rounding

By party ID	Reduce budget deficit	Keep benefits as they are
GOP/ GOP leaners	44%	47%
Income $75,000+	63%	29%
$30-74,900	38%	53%
Under $30,000	33%	62%
Dem/ Dem leaners	23%	71%
Income $75,000+	29%	68%
$30-74,900	21%	75%
Under $30,000	22%	72%

Support for expanding payroll taxes

Opinion on several deficit reduction proposals

Source: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press poll of 1,502 adults, June 13-19, 2011; margin of error: +/-3.5 percentage points Graphic: Judy Treible © 2011 MCT

BUSINESS BRIEFS

EA to pay $750M for PopCap Games

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Electronic Arts Inc. said Tuesday that it will buy PopCap Games for at least $750 million in a bid to snag a larger piece of the rapidly growing market for games on cell phones and social networks. Redwood City-based EA will pay PopCap $650 million in cash and $100 million in common shares. PopCap, which makes the popular "Bejeweled" series and "Plants vs. Zombies" games, will get up to $550 million more if it reaches certain financial milestones. EA plans to offer PopCap employees $50 million more during the next four years in order to entice them to stay, too. The deal is expected to be completed in August. If all the payouts are made, the acquisition would be EA's largest to date.

Stocks fall after Ireland downgrade erases gains

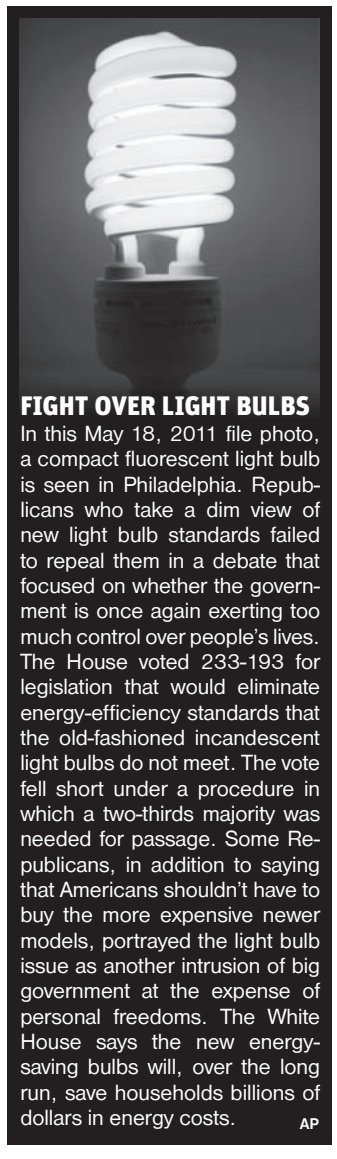
NEW YORK (AP)—Hope that the Federal Reserve might consider more economic stimulus wasn't enough to keep bad news about Ireland from sinking stocks. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 5.85, or 0.4 percent, to close at 1,313.64. The S&P is now down 0.5 percent for the month and 2.2 percent for the week. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 58.88, or 0.5 percent, to close at 12,446.88. The Nasdaq composite fell 20.71, or 0.7 percent, to close at 2,781. Both the Dow and Nasdaq are still up about 0.3 percent for the month. Earlier Tuesday, minutes from the Federal Reserve's last meeting on June 21-22 were released. In those minutes, several Fed officials said that the government would have to consider new monetary policy to stimulate the economy, especially if growth remains too slow to reduce the unemployment rate.

Judge rejects most claims in Toyota investor suit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal judge in Los Angeles has rejected most claims made in a shareholder lawsuit against Toyota Motor Corp. that accused the automaker of knowing about and hiding purported acceleration problems in some of its vehicles. U.S. District Judge Dale Fisher said in her July 7 ruling that Japanese law takes precedence, especially since many of those who sued Toyota bought company stock on foreign exchanges. The lawsuit notes Toyota's stock dropped about 20 percent in January and February 2010 when the company began recalling some of its models. Hundreds of lawsuits have been filed against Toyota, claiming economic loss and wrongful death due to sudden acceleration. Those suits are before a federal judge in Orange County.

Netflix rates rise up to 60 pct for DVD, streaming

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Netflix is raising its prices by as much as 60 percent for millions of subscribers who want to rent DVDs by mail and watch video on the Internet. The company is separating the two options so that subscribers who want both will have to buy separate plans totaling at least $16 per month. Netflix Inc. had been bundling both options in a single package, available for as low as $10 per month. New subscribers will have to pay the new prices immediately. The changes take effect Sept. 1 for Netflix's current customers. Netflix isn't changing the $8 monthly price for an Internet streaming-only option, which the company began offering late last year.



FIGHT OVER LIGHT BULBS
In this May 18, 2011 file photo, a compact fluorescent light bulb is seen in Philadelphia. Republicans who take a dim view of new light bulb standards failed to repeal them in a debate that focused on whether the government is once again exerting too much control over people's lives. The House voted 233-193 for legislation that would eliminate energy-efficiency standards that the old-fashioned incandescent light bulbs do not meet. The vote fell short under a procedure in which a two-thirds majority was needed for passage. Some Republicans, in addition to saying that Americans shouldn't have to buy the more expensive newer models, portrayed the light bulb issue as another intrusion of big government at the expense of personal freedoms. The White House says the new energy-saving bulbs will, over the long run, save households billions of dollars in energy costs. AP

Moody's cuts Ireland's rating to junk

BRUSSELS (AP)—Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday downgraded Ireland's government bond ratings to junk, dealing a further blow to the eurozone as it struggles to contain a worsening debt crisis.

Moody's said it cut Ireland's rating by one notch to Ba1 from Baa3, because it sees a growing risk the debt-ridden country will need a second bailout once its current rescue package expires at the end of 2013. The outlook for Ireland remains "negative," Moody's added.

Banks and other private investors will likely be asked to contribute to any new bailout, for instance by giving Ireland more time to repay its bonds, Moody's said. Such private sector involvement is currently being negotiated for Greece, the first eurozone country that had to be bailed out and which now is negotiating its second rescue package within a little over a year.

The downgrade of Ireland follows a similar move last week, when Moody's cut the rating of Portugal, the third victim of the eurozone's debt crisis. It comes at a difficult time for the 17-country currency union, which in recent days has seen the crisis threatening to engulf big countries like Spain and Italy, which are too big to be bailed out.

Markets may turn turbulent waiting for debt deal

NEW YORK (AP)—If you think the last few days have been tumultuous for markets, just watch as August 2 approaches.

Financial markets have largely ignored the debt limit talks in the U.S. so far. They're reacting instead to concerns about debt in Europe and dismal employment numbers.

But that's bound to change as the U.S. gets closer to maxing out its self-imposed borrowing limit of $14.3 trillion on Aug. 2. Analysts and investors expect Congressional Republicans and President Barack Obama will agree to raise the country's borrowing limit and cut spending before the deadline. Many of those same people also believe the haggling will go on until the last minute.

"If they take it to the brink, it'll be a dangerous game of chicken," said Tony Crescenzi, a market strategist at bond-fund giant Pimco.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,446.90	1,313.64	2,781.91
-58.88	-5.85	-20.71
-0.47%	-0.44%	-0.74%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9406	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7927	Philippine Peso	43.0650
British Pound	0.6276	Indian Rupee	44.6100	Singapore Dollar	1.2241
Canadian Dollar	0.9629	Indonesian Rupiah	8,562.5	South Korean Won	1,066.5
Chinese Yuan	6.4617	Japanese Yen	79.4850	Swiss Franc	0.8321
Euro	0.7143	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0241	Taiwan Dollar	28.8790
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2161	Thailand Baht	30.3680

Nation

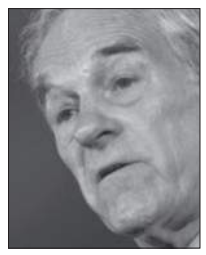
US Rep. Ron Paul of Texas to retire from Congress

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—U.S. Rep. Ron Paul said Tuesday he will concentrate on running for president and will not seek re-election to Congress, ending a 24-year career as one of the more colorful members of the House of Representatives.

The 75-year-old Republican said he will serve out his term through December 2012, whether his presidential campaign is successful or not. He told The Associated Press he has been criticized for running for Congress while seeking the presidency in the past.

Paul said the growing support for his 2012 presidential bid convinced him he should not divide his energies. He won a straw poll at the Republican Leadership Conference held in New Orleans last month.

"I think that you have more credibility if you run for only one office at a time," Paul said. He acknowledged that he may miss some House votes because of the presidential campaign, but that his staff would continue to provide constituent services.



Paul

As for the issues he feels passionately about, including U.S. foreign and economic policy, he said he will continue to fight for those either as president or from outside government.

"I believe I can continue to do what I have been doing outside of Congress," Paul said. "I was ready for a change."

The leader of the Republican Caucus in the Texas Legislature, state Rep. Larry Taylor, said Paul's retirement offers a "rare opportunity" for someone new to take the seat.

"I have received encouragement from conservative leaders across Texas this afternoon," Taylor said. "It is an opportunity that I will consider very seriously in the coming weeks."

Paul said that he was disappointed in how his district was redrawn by the Texas Legislature following the 2010 census. His new district is less heavily Republican.

"The district was weakened, there were a lot of new people, and it didn't overly excite me, but it isn't the reason" for not running again, Paul said.

Obama honors soldier who grabbed a live grenade

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama awarded the nation's highest military honor Tuesday to Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Arthur Petry after describing how the soldier took enemy fire in Afghanistan but still grabbed a live grenade to save his comrades. "This is the stuff of which heroes are made," the president declared.

It was just the second time that a living, active-duty service member from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has received a Medal of Honor. Petry, who lost his hand in the incident and wears a prosthesis, looked on from a stage in the East Room with his wife and children in the audience as the president described his heroics that day.

It unfolded on May 26, 2008, in the remote east of Afghanistan, as Petry—then a staff sergeant—and other Rangers choppered toward an insurgent compound, the president said. As soon as they landed they came under automatic weapon fire, and Petry was hit in his legs. He fell, but as grenades came flying toward him and his comrades he picked one up and tried to hurl it back before it exploded. Petry's right hand was blown off but two of his fellow soldiers were saved.

AP

President Barack Obama awards U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Leroy Arthur Petry of Santa Fe, N.M., the Medal of Honor for his valor in Afghanistan, Tuesday, July 12, 2011, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

And still Petry kept going, issuing orders to help his unit fight and win.

It was "something extraordinary," Obama said.

Even after the incident in Afghanistan, Petry didn't seek to leave the Army, instead staying enlisted and even returning to Afghanistan for an eighth deployment last year, the president said, before hanging the Medal of Honor around Petry's neck.

Petry, a Santa Fe, N.M., native who now serves with the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga., spoke to reporters outside the White House after the ceremony. He sought to turn attention away from himself and toward other Rangers, service members and military families.

Man's penis cut off, put through garbage disposal

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California woman was in custody Tuesday after authorities said she drugged her estranged husband, tied him to a bed, cut off his penis and put it through a garbage disposal.

Garden Grove police Lt. Jeff Nightengale said that Catherine Kieu Becker drugged a meal and served it to the victim, whose name was not released, shortly before the attack Monday night.

Nightengale said the 51-year-old man felt sick, went to lie down and lost consciousness. The 48-year-old Becker then tied the victim's arms and legs to the bed with rope, removed his clothes and attacked him with a 10-inch kitchen knife as he awoke, Nightengale said.

"He was conscious when his penis was removed," Nightengale said.

Nightengale said Becker put the penis in the garbage disposal and turned it on.

Nightengale said Becker called 911 and indicated to arriving officers that the victim was in the next room. Paramedics found him tied to the bed, bleeding profusely.

Bail for Becker was set at $1 million after she was booked at the Orange County Jail for investigation of aggravated mayhem, false imprisonment, assault with a deadly weapon, administering a drug with intent to commit a felony, poisoning and spousal abuse.

The victim underwent surgery and was in serious condition at the University of California at Irvine Medical Center in Orange. Nightengale said the man is expected to survive.

A call to a hospital spokeswoman was not immediately returned.

Police: Handyman killed priest, headed for Disney

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. (AP)—A handyman is accused of using a Catholic priest's own gun to kill him at a beachfront house in Mississippi, then taking his ex-wife and kids on a Disney World vacation in the dead cleric's car, authorities said. They had bought three-day passes to the theme park and were preparing to make an early start Tuesday when the suspect was arrested.

Jeremy Wayne Manieri was taken into custody without incident about 6 a.m. at a hotel in Polk County, Fla., after police tracked the priest's stolen car using its anti-theft device, Mississippi Department of Public Safety spokesman Jon Kalahar said. Manieri will be charged with murder once he's brought back to Waveland, Miss.

The Rev. Edward E. Everitt, 70, had gone to the Waveland house as part of his typical routine after Sunday Mass, a colleague said. The house is owned by several priests who use it as a weekend retreat, and Manieri did odd jobs for them.

Police believe the handyman had intended to rob Everitt. The priest's body was found by a caretaker Monday.

"When she entered she found the man on the couch in the front room and he was bleeding from the mouth so she backed out and called the police," Waveland Police Chief James Varnell said.

ACROSS THE NATION

9/11 victims' names to be read, memorial opened

NEW YORK (AP)—The names of all the Sept. 11 victims will be read for the first time during a ceremony in New York City on the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. Besides the names of those killed at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, relatives will read the names of those lost in terrorist plane crashes at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and in Shanksville, Pa. They also will read the names of the victims of the 1993 trade center bombing. In all, 2,983 names will be read. In addition, the names will be inscribed in bronze on the memorial plaza. President Barack Obama is to attend the ceremony, which also marks the opening of the national Sept. 11 memorial to relatives of the victims on Sept. 11, and to the public the next day.

Woman, 3 children shot dead in New Orleans suburb

KENNER, La. (AP)—Police say a woman and three children have been shot to death in their home in a New Orleans suburb. Kenner Police Chief Steve Caraway says the children were ages 12, 1 1/2 and 6 months. Kenner Police Department Lt. Wayne McInnis says there are no suspects or motives yet. The shooting happened about 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Rodney King arrested on suspicion of DUI in Calif.

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—Rodney King has been arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence in Southern California. The Moreno Valley Police Department said officers pulled King over Tuesday after seeing him commit several alleged traffic violations. He was booked into jail for investigation of DUI, and bail was set at $2,500. King was the black motorist whose beating by four white police officers in 1991 exposed racial wounds and led to a devastating riot in Los Angeles. He has struggled with sobriety publicly and appeared on television's "Celebrity Rehab." Riverside County Sheriff's spokeswoman Courtney Donowho said no arraignment date has been set.

Kan. poultry farm loses 4,300 turkeys in heat wave

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—A heat wave that has pushed temperatures well over 100 degrees has killed tens of thousands of turkeys and chickens in Kansas and North Carolina and left farmers across the lower part of the country struggling to cool off their flocks. In North Carolina, about 50,000 chickens died at a farm after the power went off for less than an hour. In Kansas, one couple lost 4,300 turkeys that took 26 hours to bury. "It felt like a war zone. It felt like hell," turkey grower Holly Capron said.

Police: Girl found dead after hide-and-seek game

PHOENIX (AP)—Police in Phoenix say the body of a 10-year-old girl was found in a small trunk that she apparently used for a game of hide-and-seek. Authorities say it appeared the South Phoenix girl used the foot locker for the game Monday night with neighborhood children and some cousins. They say she possibly died of positional asphyxiation, suffocation or was somehow overcome and passed out inside the container. Police spokesman Sgt. Trent Crump says her family found the girl outside a home Tuesday morning but could not revive her. Police say it appears to be an accidental death. The Arizona Republic reports that the girl lived with her grandmother, an aunt and uncle and at least three other siblings.

Asia

Afghan president's half brother killed in south

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—President Hamid Karzai's half brother, the most powerful man in southern Afghanistan and a lightning rod for criticism of corruption in the government, was assassinated Tuesday by a close associate. His death leaves a dangerous power vacuum in the south just as the government has begun peace talks with insurgents ahead of a U.S. withdrawal.

Karzai

Ahmed Wali Karzai, the head of the Kandahar provincial council, was shot to death while receiving guests at his home in Kandahar, the capital of the province that was the birthplace of the Taliban movement and was the site of a recent U.S.-led offensive.

Tooryalai Wesa, the provincial governor of Kandahar, identified the assassin as Sardar Mohammad and said he was a close, "trustworthy" person who had gone to Wali Karzai's house to get him to sign some papers.

As Wali Karzai was signing the papers, the assassin "took out a pistol and shot him with two bullets—one in the forehead and one in the chest," Wesa said. "Another patriot to the Afghan nation was martyred by the enemies of Afghanistan."

The killing coincided with a visit to the capital, Kabul, by French President Nicolas Sarzoky.

"This morning my younger brother Ahmed Wali Karzai was murdered in his home," the Afghan president said during a joint news conference with Sarkozy. "Such is the life of Afghanistan's people. In the houses of the people of Afghanistan, each of us is suffering and our hope is, God willing, to remove this suffering from the people of Afghanistan and implement peace and stability."

Gunmen abduct 2 Americans in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—More than a dozen armed men abducted a naturalized American, her teenage son and Filipino nephew before dawn Tuesday from a southern Philippine island near a stronghold of al-Qaida-linked militants, officials said.

Suspicion fell on the notorious Abu Sayyaf, which has been blamed for ransom kidnappings, beheadings and bombings in the last two decades, or a Muslim rebel commander whose group has been linked to previous abductions.

The 400-plus Abu Sayyaf militants, who are fighting for an Islamist state in the predominantly Christian nation, are holding three other kidnap victims, including a child, as part of desperate efforts to raise funds, according to the Philippine army.

The assailants seized Gerfa Yeatts Lunsmann, her 14-year-old son and 19-year-old Filipino nephew from a house in Zamboanga city's Tictabon island village, then fled with their captives in two motorized boats, said police Senior Superintendent Edwin de Ocampo.

No contact or ransom demand has been made by the abductors, and their identities remain unconfirmed, de Ocampo said. It happened near Basilan Island, the birthplace and stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf militants, about 550 miles (880 kilometers) south of Manila.

The largest Muslim separatist group, Moro Islamic Liberation Front, is present in the area but it has been negotiating with the government and a cease-fire has largely held for several years.

However, the military said a separatist Moro commander identified as Waning Abdulsalam may have been responsible. Rebel spokesman Von Al Haq said his group would investigate but that it has no such report and will not tolerate criminal activities.

Police earlier said the woman was a Filipino married to a German and the family lives in the U.S. state of Virginia.

ERUPTING VOLCANO AP

Mount Lokon spews volcanic smoke in Tomohon, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Nearly 1,000 residents have fled two villages near the volcano that has been erupting this week and has a history of violent explosions. About 977 people from Kaskasen and Kinilow villages evacuated Tuesday to a school in the district town of Tomohon. Mount Lokon has been at the highest alert level since Sunday and has had small eruptions daily. The mountain in north Sulawesi province is one of about 129 active volcanos in Indonesia. Its last major eruption in 1991 killed a Swiss hiker and forced thousands of people to flee their homes.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Officials: 16 dead in abortive Kazakh prison break

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AP)—Sixteen prisoners died when they blew themselves up after an abortive attempt to break out of a jail in southern Kazakhstan, the Justice Ministry said Tuesday. The ministry said in a statement that the alarm was raised early Monday morning, when a group of armed prisoners attacked jail guards at the AK-159/21 medium-security prison in the town of Balkhash. One guard died of gunshot wounds on the way to the hospital and two others were injured. After the skirmish, the fugitives took refuge in a sewing factory on the premises of the jail. Justice officials say the prisoners died when they detonated an oxygen canister as special forces approached the building.

Death toll in China warehouse fire rises to 14

BEIJING (AP)—The death toll from a warehouse fire in central China has risen to 14, including three children. The official Xinhua News Agency said Wednesday that firefighters found two bodies in the two-story building late Tuesday. It says a short circuit in an electrical outlet downstairs is believed to have caused Tuesday's fire. Most people in the warehouse managed to escape, but at least a dozen were trapped on the second floor. The warehouse is located in an industrial park in Wuhan in Hubei province. Xinhua says it is rented by a latex firm. Xinhua says the building contained temporary dorms for workers and some of the victims were their family members.

North Korean leader hosts senior Chinese officials

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and his son and heir-apparent Kim Jong Un pledged to keep ties with China close as they staged a dinner party for a visiting delegation of senior Chinese officials to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a treaty of friendship. Kim Jong Il told the Chinese delegation, headed by Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang, that close relations will stay "unchanged no matter how much water flows under the bridge and no matter how frequently a generation is replaced by another," according to a statement from the North's official Korean Central News Agency released late Tuesday night after the dinner party.

Explosion at Islamic school in Indonesia kills 1

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A man reportedly trying to show students how to make explosives was killed by a homemade bomb inside an Islamic boarding school in Indonesia, police said Tuesday. School officials and students have prevented police from entering the building since Monday's explosion, local police spokesman Lt. Col. Sukarman Husen said. But they discovered the body of the suspected bomb maker, a 30-year-old man identified only as Firdaus, on a bus Tuesday as it tried to leave the school compound, he said. Eleven people have been taken in for questioning, Husen said, adding that police also confiscated a number of arrows and machetes.

US strikes in Pakistan follow aid cut, kill 42

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Four suspected U.S. missile strikes in northwestern Pakistan in less than 24 hours killed at least 42 alleged militants, an unusually heavy barrage at a time when relations between the two countries are badly strained, Pakistani intelligence officials said Tuesday. The barrage began late Monday when suspected U.S. missiles hit a house in Gorvak village in North Waziristan, killing at least 20 alleged militants, said two Pakistani intelligence officials. Two other Pakistani intelligence officials put the death toll at 23. Missiles also hit a house in the Dremala village of South Waziristan tribal area on Tuesday, killing at least eight alleged militants, said two Pakistani intelligence officials. Two other intelligence officials put the death toll from the strike at 13.

Bangladesh mourns crash deaths of 44 students

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Many schools in southeastern Bangladesh closed Tuesday as people mourned 44 mostly schoolboys who died when a truck taking them home from a soccer match crashed into a canal.

The government asked all schools across the country to formally mourn the victims Wednesday.

Students, teachers and officials were asked to wear black badges as a symbol of mourning and special prayers will be held at all schools, the Education Ministry statement said.

The victims' relatives held prayers at their homes and mosques. Two senior Cabinet ministers visited them, and one promised jobs for the impoverished families.

"The whole nation is shocked today, we have no word to express our sympathy," a sobbing Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told a crowd at a school ground. "They were our children, nothing can condole the loss."

The government pledged initial financial help of 20,000 takas ($267) to each of the families, local police chief Iftekhar Hasan told The Associated Press by phone.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also sent their condolences.

The driver of the cargo truck carrying the boys fled immediately after Monday's crash, and police are searching for him to arrest him.

Police are recording statements from survivors about how the crash happened, Hasan said. News reports said the driver was talking on his cellphone and lost control while trying to give room for a vehicle coming from the opposite direction.

China toddler who fell 10 stories wakes from coma

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese toddler who fell 10 stories and survived after being caught by a passer-by woke up from a 10-day coma and called out to her parents, state media reported Tuesday.

The 2-year-old girl was left unattended and fell from her family's apartment window in eastern Zhejiang province on July 2.

Xinhua News Agency said she opened her eyes Tuesday after having been unconscious since the fall.

"Her eyes opened slightly this morning, and she called out to her mom and dad when they entered the ward," Dr. Zhang Chenmei of Zhejiang Provincial Children's Hospital was quoted as saying. He added that the child made eye contact with her parents during their 30-minute meeting.

The girl, named Zhang Fangyu but known by the nickname Niu Niu, was in critical condition with serious internal injuries when she was taken to hospital.

Zhang said that her heartbeat, blood pressure and pulse were now normal and "we can assume she's out of danger."

Earlier reports said Niu Niu was in the care of her grandmother when the older woman left the 10th-floor apartment outside the city of Hangzhou to run an afternoon errand.

Neighbors saw Niu Niu dangling from the apartment window for several minutes before she fell. A 31-year-old mother, Wu Juping, ran to catch the child and saved her from hitting the ground.

World

AP sources: Rebels gaining on Gadhafi regime

WASHINGTON (AP)—Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is facing dramatic shortages of fuel for his soldiers and citizens in Tripoli, and he is running out of cash to pay his forces and what is left of his government, according to the latest U.S. intelligence reports. In France, the foreign minister reported that Gadhafi is prepared to leave power.

Rebel forces that captured towns from Nalut to Kikla in Libya's western Nafusa mountains cut a key crude oil pipeline that feeds one of the regime's major refineries in the town of al-Zawiya, U.S. officials told The Associated Press. They cited U.S. intelligence estimates that fuel shortages could occur within as little as a month.

Gadhafi

The cash shortage follows Turkey's move last week to seize hundreds of millions of dollars held in the Arab Turkish Bank, the U.S. officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss matters of intelligence.

While the Libyan strongman could not access actual cash, he had been issuing letters of credit to pay his debtors, including fuel importers, the U.S. officials said.

Intelligence analysts are pointing to the collection of indicators, including territory seized and looming fuel and money shortages, as the first shift from stalemate to momentum for the rebels since the conflict began in mid-March, the U.S. officials said.

Word of the building pressure against Gadhafi came as France's foreign minister reported that Gadhafi was prepared to leave power, citing Libyan emissaries who have approached the French government. It was not immediately clear how credible the offer was. Gadhafi has refused to leave or give up power since U.S. and NATO forces launched a bombing campaign in support of rebels who rose up against the regime's bloody crackdown against anti-government protests.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said that while the contacts do not constitute formal negotiations, "we receive emissaries who are saying, `Gadhafi is prepared to leave. Let's discuss it.'" He didn't identify the envoys.

US says Syria's Assad failed to prove himself legitimate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States said Tuesday that Syrian President Bashar Assad has failed to prove himself a worthy leader nearly two months after being challenged by President Barack Obama to guide his country toward a democratic transition or leave power.

In endorsing Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's declaration that Assad has "lost legitimacy," the White House moved closer to openly declaring its desire for regime change in Syria.

"Increasingly you're seeing President Assad lose legitimacy in the eyes of his people," Obama said in an interview with CBS News. "He has missed opportunity after opportunity to present a genuine reform agenda."

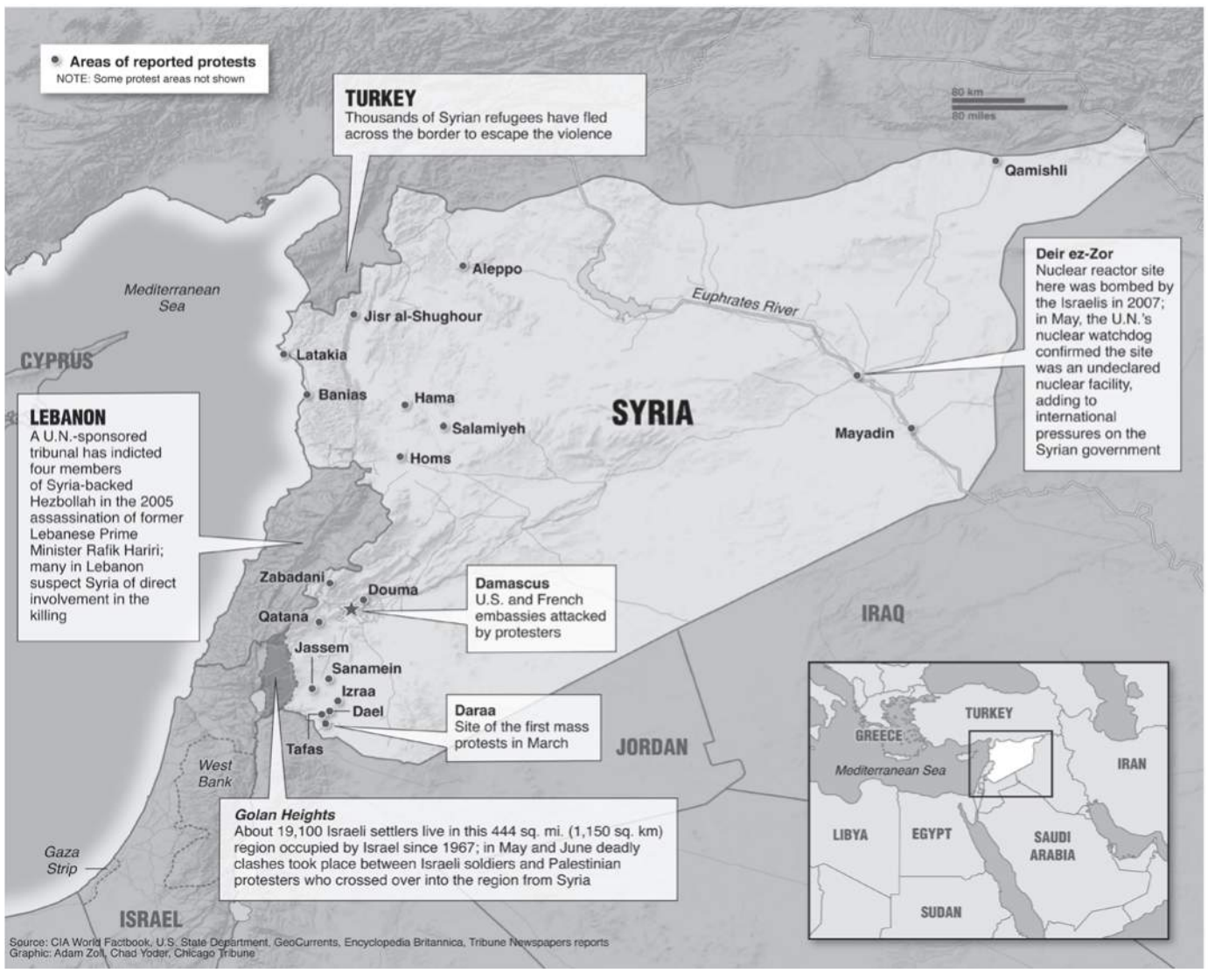
Presidential spokesman Jay Carney added that Assad was "not indispensable."

The more aggressive U.S. posture followed Monday's storming by an angry mob of the U.S. Embassy and American ambassador's residence in Damascus.

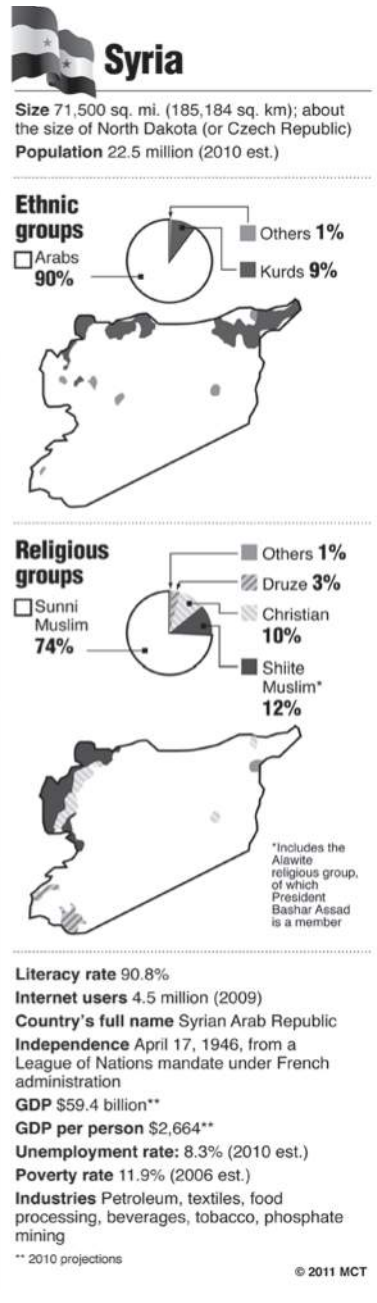
"We've been very clear that what we've seen on the part of the Syrian regime has been an unacceptable degree of brutality, directed at its people," Obama said. "We've certainly sent a clear message that nobody can be messing with our embassy, and that we will take whatever actions necessary in order to protect our embassy. And I think they've gotten that message."

Bashar Assad's regime under pressure

Home to one of the Middle East's most authoritarian governments, Syria has long been critized from abroad for its support of militant organizations, including Lebanon's Hezbollah and Palestine's Hamas, its cozy relationship with Iran, and, more recently, its intent to build a nuclear program. Now, for the first time in a generation, the regime faces widespread opposition at home. Protesters by the thousands, emboldened by the Arab spring, take to the streets each week to voice their opposition the regime's restrictive policies. While President Bashar Assad has spoken of the need for reform, his government's use of deadly force against the protesters — about 1,400 of whom have reportedly been killed since March — has raised the stakes in a country that plays a critical role in the region's fragile geopolitical balance.



Source: CIA World Factbook, U.S. State Department, GeoCurrents, Encyclopedia Britannica, Tribune Newspapers reports
Graphic: Adam Zoll, Chad Yoder, Chicago Tribune


Syria
Size 71,500 sq. mi. (185,184 sq. km); about the size of North Dakota (or Czech Republic)
Population 22.5 million (2010 est.)
Ethnic groups
Arabs 90%
Others 1%
Kurds 9%
Religious groups
Sunni Muslim 74%
Others 1%
Druze 3%
Christian 10%
Shiite Muslim* 12%
*Includes the Alawite religious group, of which President Bashar Assad is a member
Literacy rate 90.8%
Internet users 4.5 million (2009)
Country's full name Syrian Arab Republic
Independence April 17, 1946, from a League of Nations mandate under French administration
GDP $59.4 billion**
GDP per person $2,664**
Unemployment rate: 8.3% (2010 est.)
Poverty rate 11.9% (2006 est.)
Industries Petroleum, textiles, food processing, beverages, tobacco, phosphate mining
** 2010 projections
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UK government turns against Murdoch's bid for BSkyB

LONDON (AP)—The cozy relationship that Rupert Murdoch long enjoyed with the British power structure came to an abrupt end Tuesday, just as he needed it to complete one of his biggest media buys ever.

The billionaire, tainted by a cell phone hacking scandal at one of his newspapers, suddenly faces stiff government opposition to his bid for total control of a much more lucrative property: the satellite British Sky Broadcasting company.

The news came in a stunning announcement from Prime Minister David Cameron's office that the government will support a motion calling on Murdoch and his News Corp. to withdraw the $12 billion bid for BSkyB.

Cameron's turnabout means the Australian-born Murdoch, who held great influence in British politics no matter who ran the government, suddenly finds all three major political parties lined up against him. He's even been asked to appear before lawmakers next week to answer questions about the conduct of News International, Murdoch's UK company.

A resolution calling for the scrapping of the BSkyB deal would be nonbinding but would likely be seen as a powerful expression of united opposition to any substantial expansion of Murdoch's holdings. The deal is awaiting regulatory approval.

WORLD BRIEFS

Coffins of Habsburgs arrive in Austria

MARIAZELL, Austria (AP)—The coffins of the son of Austria's last emperor and his wife have been brought to Austria and are lying in state at a cathedral associated with their dynasty. Family members of the late Otto Von Habsburg and his wife Regina met the coffins as they arrived Tuesday evening at the Mariazell basilica, site of Habsburg marriages, requiems and other ceremonies. The coffins are to be buried Saturday in the Emperor Tomb in Vienna, below the Austrian capital's Capuchin Church. Habsburg died on July 4 at age 98 in his villa in Poecking in southern Germany. His wife, Regina, died last year. The dynasty ruled for more than seven centuries until Austria abolished the monarchy at the end of World War I.

US deports Guatemala massacre suspect

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—A former member of an elite Guatemalan military force suspected of carrying out a 1982 massacre was extradited from the United States on Tuesday, ending a two-decade exile in which he spent years working in a southern California sweater factory. Pedro Pimentel Rios, 54, was flown on a government-chartered plane to Guatemala and turned over to authorities, said Virginia Kice, a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The news was celebrated in Guatemala by a lawyer for victims of the Dos Erres massacre, in which more than 150 people were killed.

Prosecutors: Mob pushes Mexican police off cliff

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico (AP)—Some members of an indigenous community in southern Mexico are under investigation on suspicion they pushed a police car over a cliff, killing two officers and a civilian inside, prosecutors said Monday. A fourth man reportedly survived. Residents of San Cristobalito in Chiapas state were angry that the officers were executing an arrest warrant for a community member accused of auto theft, state prosecutor Mario Hernandez told The Associated Press.

Focus

We are not ready to let this cemetery be taken back by the jungle. If we have to do it ourselves, we will do it. We don't leave our brothers behind.
JAMES EDWARD O'CONNOR
KENTUCKY

In this July 1, 2011 photo, retired U.S. soldier Dennis Wright shows the thickness of the ashfall that blanketed the Clark Veterans Cemetery during the 1991 eruption of Mt. Pinatubo volcano, at the sprawling Clark Economic Zone, a former U.S. Air Force base in Dau, Pampanga province in northern Philippines. Retired U.S. soldiers, who voluntarily are keeping watch over the burial grounds, where some of their comrades lay, are waging a low-key battle to prod Washington to fund and take charge of the 2-acre (eight-hectare) cemetery.

AP

US ignores veterans graves in the Philippines

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

» 'It's the veterans' cemetery that America forgot'

CLARK, Philippines (AP)—Walking along the rows of tombstones here offers a glimpse of the wars America has fought and the men and women who waged them. But most of the grave markers have been half-buried for 20 years, and there is little hope that the volcanic ash obscuring names, dates and epitaphs will be cleared any time soon.

Clark Veterans Cemetery was consigned to oblivion in 1991, when Mount Pinatubo's gigantic eruption forced the U.S. to abandon the sprawling air base surrounding it. Retired U.S. soldiers, Marines and sailors volunteer to keep watch, relying on donations to try to maintain the grounds, but they lament that they're helplessly short on funds to fix things, and that Washington is unwilling to help.

"It's the veterans' cemetery that America forgot," Vietnam War veteran and ex-Navy officer Robert Chesko said.

As America marks Independence Day, the U.S. veterans who collect funds to care for the cemetery renewed their calls for Washington to fund and take charge of the work.

Workers at the cemetery north of Manila recently dug to fully expose a gravestone for an Army sergeant who died in World War II in the Philippines. They discovered his wife's name engraved under his and a long-hidden tribute: "Daughter, sister, wife and mother of veterans."

It's impossible to say what else remains hidden at the 17-acre (seven-hectare) cemetery. It holds the remains of 8,600 people, including 2,200 American veterans and nearly 700 allied Philippine Scouts who saw battle in conflicts from the early 1900s to the resistance against brutal Japanese occupation troops in WWII.

Clark's dead also include military dependents, civilians who worked for the U.S. wartime government and at least 2,139 mostly unidentified soldiers whose marble tombstones are labeled "Unknown."

"People celebrate on the Fourth of July but they forgot the 8,600 who helped make that freedom happen," said former Navy Capt. Dennis Wright, who saw action in Vietnam and is now a business executive.

"We're trying to get the U.S. government to assume responsibility for maintaining the cemetery so we can get it up to standards ... not on nickels and dimes and donations and gifts," said retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Larry Heilhecker, who served as cemetery caretaker for five years until last month.

Clark was a U.S. base for nearly a century and was once the largest American Air Force installation off the U.S. mainland. It served as a key staging area for U.S. forces during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The Clark cemetery, which can accommodate at least 12,000 remains, was developed between 1947 and 1950, when it was used to collect the remains and tombstones from four U.S. military cemeteries as American officials sorted out their dead from WWII and previous wars.

An American cemetery at the then-Fort McKinley in Manila became the exclusive burial ground for all Americans and allied Philippine Scouts who were killed in WWII combat. The 152-acre (61-hectare) Manila cemetery collected 17,202 dead, the largest number of American casualties interred in one place from the last world war.

Now closed to burials, the stunningly landscaped Manila cemetery became one of 24 American burial grounds outside the U.S. mainland. Nearly 125,000 Americans who perished in WWI and WWII and the Mexican War are interred in those U.S.-funded overseas cemeteries, regarded as among the most beautiful war memorials in the world. The overseas burial sites are administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission, or ABMC.

The dead at Clark are not limited to World War II casualties — they date as far back as 1900. Also unlike the Manila cemetery, it continues to accept burials. One U.S. veteran who lives in the area had his son buried here after he was killed in Iraq in 2004. But Clark is not administered by the ABMC.

The Air Force managed Clark cemetery from 1947 to 1991, when it abruptly left after nearby Pinatubo roared back to life from a 500-year slumber. Even before the eruption, negotiations with the Philippine government for a new U.S. military lease on Clark had bogged down after nearly a century of presence in the Philippines, according to the veterans.

Philippine authorities failed to look after the cemetery. In 1994, American veterans were shocked to find it had become an ash-covered jungle of weeds, overgrown grass and debris. Half of its old steel fence had been looted.

Today, a pair of U.S. and Philippine flags flutter in the wind over the graves. A recently restored marble obelisk, pockmarked by World War II gun and artillery fire, venerates the unknown dead. A small sign at a new steel gate ushers in visitors with a tribute to the war dead: "Served with honor."

All the improvements came from donations. Wright's company spent $90,000 to construct a new concrete and steel fence and a parking lot and make other improvements. An old veteran, confined to a nursing home in Florida, sent one dollar in a touching act, Heilhecker said.

Ret. U.S. Air Force Technical Sgt. Littleton John Fortune has been giving small amounts from his pension for the upkeep of the cemetery, where many of his friends lay. He said the worst day in his life came in 2004 when his son, a young Army sergeant, was killed by a bomb in Iraq. He buried his son at Clark and continues to help the cemetery.

Still, the Clark gravesites look forlorn compared to the American cemetery in Manila.

A U.S. government decision to take control of the Clark cemetery could shed light on the fate of still-missing Americans, Wright said, citing the case of a U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Hershel Lee Covey, whose name is on a Clark cemetery tombstone that declared him as having died on July 17, 1942 in the Philippines.

A check by The Associated Press showed ABMC lists Covey as "missing in action or buried at sea."

Dashing the hopes of the American veterans, the ABMC and the Department of Veterans Affairs, which manages 131 U.S. mainland cemeteries through an agency, both said Clark was outside their mandate.

"Whether the U.S. government should take on responsibility for maintaining such a foreign, private cemetery is a veterans' benefits issue outside the scope of our authority," ABMC public affairs director Michael Conley told the AP in an e-mailed reply to questions.

U.S. Ambassador to Manila Harry Thomas, who has visited the Clark cemetery twice, praised the American veterans for looking after the burial grounds, which he said volunteer embassy staff and visiting U.S. sailors have helped clean up. But he said the U.S. Congress only appropriates funds for official cemeteries overseas through the ABMC, Thomas said.

Philippine officials have authorized an American veterans' group led by Chesko to manage the Clark cemetery up to 2030, and have said they are open to allowing any U.S. agency to manage it.

"Without them, we wouldn't have this freedom now," said Felipe Antonio Remollo, president of the state-run Clark Development Corp., which oversees the former base, now an industrial and commercial hub.

Once developed and possibly turned into a war memorial, the cemetery could draw in tourists, Remollo said.

Clark's elderly veterans, some of whom become teary-eyed when reminiscing days with fallen comrades, worry about who will look after the cemetery as their ranks dwindle. Two passed away and were buried last week.

"We're getting old. We can feel it in our bones, you know, in mind and everything," said 65-year-old Chesko. He has wondered whether fallen soldiers' sacrifices still matter to young Americans.

"What bothers me sometimes is, will they still remember?" Chesko said.

The new cemetery caretaker, John Gilbert, said the veterans were not trying to pass the responsibility.

"We're proud to do it, don't get me wrong, but we do not have the resources to do it," said Gilbert. They would have no choice if Washington ignores their pleas, he said.

"We are not ready to let this cemetery be taken back by the jungle," he said. "If we have to do it ourselves, we will do it."

"We don't leave our brothers behind."

Environment

Protecting public health one water quality test at a time

By HAZEL MARIE DOCTOR
CORAL REEF INITIATIVE INTERN

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coral Reef Initiative intern Hazel Marie Doctor tests water samples at the Division of Environmental Quality's Surveillance Laboratory.

Name 10 reasons why water plays a vital role in our lives.

Thinking on your feet, you would probably name drinking as one of the first, followed by a list of other reasons. Whether you knew about 10 or more, the fact that water plays crucial roles in our lives as well as those of plants and animals remains true. Sometimes, however, runoff, erosion, illegal dumping, and pollution degrade our islands' water quality, making it unsafe to use. To protect public health and the environment, it is important to inform the CNMI communities about the quality of marine, drinking, and public waters through careful laboratory evaluation.

I am currently employed as a Coral Reef Initiative intern under the supervision of Clarissa T. Bearden at the Division of Environmental Quality's Surveillance Laboratory. My department focuses on providing monitoring data to evaluate the quality of drinking and recreational waters of our islands. As an intern, I work closely with my instructor and seven other highly qualified colleagues to provide clear and accurate data about our waters. With concerns of protecting public health and our environment, the DEQ lab branch staff members and I follow strict protocols during testing and analysis.

One of my main tasks for the summer internship is to join some of my colleagues in collecting marine water samples and testing them at the laboratory. We collect samples from Saipan's west beaches every week and from Managaha, Tinian, Rota, and the east beaches of Saipan in an alternating eight-week period. During these sample collections, we also test the waters for biological and chemical parameters with the YSI meter. These data help us monitor possible trends in the water quality of various sites.

Back at the lab, marine water from each site is diluted to 10 mL in a small bottle filled with distilled water. Enterolert, a yellow powder chemical, is then poured into the solution and shaken until it is all dissolved. The solution is then placed into a tray, sealed tight, and incubated for 24 hours. We can then detect and calculate the amount of enterococci using ultraviolet light, charts and computer programs. These procedures help us determine whether the beach site should be red-flagged or not. Once we have found our list of red-flagged beach sites, a press release signed by my instructor and the program director is faxed to the media.

In addition to monitoring beach sites regularly, I was assigned to work on a major project about the water quality violations at DPW's Channel Bridge (West Beach 10) located at Lower Base, Saipan. On my first week on the job, the DEQ lab staff members conducted a preliminary sanitary survey to determine if traces of pollution contributed to increased water quality violations. A week later, DEQ lab technicians and CUC's wastewater personnel poured five gallons of red tracer dye solution into the nearest SI wet well to see where the dye travels. On that same day, we found spots of red dye in a particular area of the wetlands. We observed that the dye stuck to white fungal matter sticking to exposed roots from mangrove trees. On June 30, with the assistance of CUC personnel, we poured gallons of red tracer dye into the SI wet well again and found traces of it in the same area in the wetlands. After digging holes around that area, we found the dye solution seeping through the soil along with methane gas. Our findings suggest that the contaminated substance must be seeping through the ground.

While the results of this project are still tentative, investigating sources of pollution and conducting experiments to reach definite answers have been exciting and enlightening. This project has opened my mind to new ways of protecting our environment.

While I have learned a great deal about monitoring marine water quality, I have also learned about conservation through CRI activities for interns. Every Tuesday, interns and instructors get together to discuss environmental topics from ocean acidification to a recent study on Laolao Bay's waters. In some days, we participate in reef flat surveys where we count the number of algae in specific beach sites. At the end of our internships, we will present what we've learned from our departments, which gives each of us a chance to develop a well-rounded perspective of our island environment.

All these have made my experience as a CRI intern a fun, memorable one. Through this internship, I have sharpened my analytical and interpersonal skills and witnessed firsthand the inner workings of a laboratory fully certified by the Environmental Protection Agency. I have also taken a greater appreciation towards our environment and deem myself lucky to be a citizen of our beautiful islands. While I will be attending a university in the United States as a psychology and neuroscience major, I plan on joining environmental organizations and learn more about what I can do to help the CNMI. While it is my dream to return as a licensed psychiatrist, it has also become my wish to promote and protect Saipan's rich, beautiful waters.

My experience as a CRI intern

By AMANDA MARIA W. SANTOS
CORAL REEF INITIATIVE INTERN

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coral Reef Initiative intern Amanda Maria W. Santos has her picture taken after participating in a reef flat survey.

Hafa Adai! My name is Amanda Maria W. Santos. I graduated from Kagman High School, Class of 2011. I am the former president of Kagman High School Marine Biology Club and I heard about the Coral Reef Initiative Summer Internship from my school counselor. On June 6, 2011, I began my first day of work as an intern for Rachel Zuercher, Non-Point Source Pollution Coordinator at the Coastal Resources Management Office.

Non-point source pollution, also called NPS pollution, happens when rainwater runs over land and picks up pollutants such as chemical waste, trash, or sediments and dumps them into lakes, streams, and ocean waters. For this internship I have four major projects: NPS Calendar for Contractors (BMP-of-the-month), Coral Reef Intern Discussion Group, MINA Bin Cleanup, and the development of Wetland Outreach materials.

The calendar for contractors will feature an environmental best management practice (BMP) each month. It will be made for contractors in hopes that they will use some of the BMPs and erosion and runoff will occur less frequently. BMPs to be featured in the calendar include: permeable parking areas, rain gardens and silt fencing among others.

I coordinate a weekly Coral Reef Intern Discussion Group. The purpose of the discussion group is for the interns to learn about the work of their peers and mentors. Our discussions are every Tuesday either at the CRM, DEQ, or DFW's conference room. The leaders for every discussion group are the mentors, and so far the issues we discussed are Ocean Acidification, resource management at Lao Lao Bay, and traditional environmental knowledge in the Pacific and CNMI.

Additionally, I coordinate beach cleanups for three beaches where CRM sponsors recycling bins: PauPau, Laly 4, and Coral Ocean Point. The first cleanup was on June 24, 2011, at Coral Ocean Point. We noticed how effective the trash bins at this beach are, as the bins were full and trash along the beach was minimal.

For wetland education, I have created a Jeopardy game for students to educate them about wetlands we have in the CNMI. I am also working on other wetlands activities for elementary students. In addition to my other projects, I participate in internship activities such as a reef flat surveys at Bird Island Sanctuary, PakPak Beach and Susupe Beach Park.

Working as an intern at CRM has been such a great experience for me. It made me come to a decision in what I should major in—Natural Resources Management. I would definitely recommend this internship to other students who are interested in marine life.

First Friday Films offers 'Home'

It is time for us to save our planet from ourselves. On Aug. 5, First Friday Films offers *Home*, a film that exposes the impacts of mankind's actions on our planet Earth. With breathtaking visuals taken from an aerial perspective, we can look down at what has become of Earth and what we can do to save it from the threats of global warming. The journey starts at 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center.

There is no place like home—and that is especially true when "home" refers to our planet. With stunning shots from over 50 countries, *Home* presents what *Time* magazine hails as "an intoxicating perspective on our world" showcasing the majestic beauty of the planet as well as the undeniable tragedy that we have caused it. Director Yann Arthus-Bertrand hopes that with this stark presentation of Earth, the film will resonate in all of us and convince us to save our home.

First Friday Films is a monthly environmental film series organized by the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality.

As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public. ***(PR)***

Life & Style

Should parents lose custody of super obese kids?

CHICAGO (AP)—Should parents of extremely obese children lose custody for not controlling their kids' weight? A provocative commentary in one of the nation's most distinguished medical journals argues yes, and its authors are joining a quiet chorus of advocates who say the government should be allowed to intervene in extreme cases.

It has happened a few times in the U.S., and the opinion piece in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association says putting children temporarily in foster care is in some cases more ethical than obesity surgery.

Dr. David Ludwig, an obesity specialist at Harvard-affiliated Children's Hospital Boston, said the point isn't to blame parents, but rather to act in children's best interest and get them help that for whatever reason their parents can't provide.

State intervention "ideally will support not just the child but the whole family, with the goal of reuniting child and family as soon as possible. That may require instruction on parenting," said Ludwig, who wrote the article with Lindsey Murtagh, a lawyer and a researcher at Harvard's School of Public Health.

"Despite the discomfort posed by state intervention, it may sometimes be necessary to protect a child," Murtagh said.

But University of Pennsylvania bioethicist Art Caplan said he worries that the debate risks putting too much blame on parents. Obese children are victims of advertising, marketing, peer pressure and bullying—things a parent can't control, he said.

"If you're going to change a child's weight, you're going to have to change all of them," Caplan said.

Roughly 2 million U.S. children are extremely obese. Most are not in imminent danger, Ludwig said. But some have obesity-related conditions such as Type 2 diabetes, breathing difficulties and liver problems that could kill them by age 30. It is these kids for whom state intervention, including education, parent training, and temporary protective custody in the most extreme cases, should be considered, Ludwig said.

While some doctors promote weight-loss surgery for severely obese teens, Ludwig said it hasn't been used for very long in adolescents and can have serious, sometimes life-threatening complications.

"We don't know the long-term safety and effectiveness of these procedures done at an early age," he said.

Ludwig said he starting thinking about the issue after a 90-pound 3-year-old girl came to his obesity clinic several years ago. Her parents had physical disabilities, little money and difficulty controlling her weight. Last year, at age 12, she weighed 400 pounds and had developed diabetes, cholesterol problems, high blood pressure and sleep apnea.

AP

In a July 11, 2011 photo, Stormy Bradley, left, and her daughter Maya, 14, are seen, in Atlanta. Maya is part of an anti-obesity ad campaign in Georgia. A provocative article in a prominent medical journal argues that parents of extremely obese children should lose custody because they can't control their kids' weight in the most extreme cases. Bradley's daughter isn't at risk, but Bradley sympathizes with parents struggling to control their kids' weight.

"Out of medical concern, the state placed this girl in foster care, where she simply received three balanced meals a day and a snack or two and moderate physical activity," he said. After a year, she lost 130 pounds. Though she is still obese, her diabetes and apnea disappeared; she remains in foster care, he said.

In a commentary in the medical journal BMJ last year, London pediatrician Dr. Russell Viner and colleagues said obesity was a factor in several child protection cases in Britain. They argued that child protection services should be considered if parents are neglectful or actively reject efforts to control an extremely obese child's weight.

A 2009 opinion article in Pediatrics made similar arguments. Its authors said temporary removal from the home would be warranted "when all reasonable alternative options have been exhausted."

That piece discussed a 440-pound 16-year-old girl who developed breathing problems from excess weight and nearly died at a University of Wisconsin hospital. Doctors discussed whether to report her family for neglect. But they didn't need to, because her medical crisis "was a wake-up call" for her family, and the girl ended up losing about 100 pounds, said co-author Dr. Norman Fost, a medical ethicist at the university's Madison campus.

State intervention in obesity "doesn't necessarily involve new legal requirements," Ludwig said. Health care providers are required to report children who are at immediate risk, and that can be for a variety of reasons, including neglect, abuse and what doctors call "failure to thrive." That's when children are severely underweight.

In Loving Memory of

David Quichocho Maratita

(November 2, 1937 – July 23, 2010)

"Although it's been a year since you left us so suddenly, not a day has gone by without memories of you lingering in our minds, as our hearts yearn to fill the void that you have left behind."

The family of David Quichocho Maratita invites our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our beloved David.

Daily Masses will be offered at the Tinian San Jose Church as follows:
Friday (07/15) at 6:00 p.m.
Saturday (07/16) at 6:00 a.m.
Sunday (07/17) at 6:00 a.m.
Monday (07/18) at 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday (07/19) at 6:00 a.m.
Wednesday (07/20) at 6:00 p.m.
Thursday (07/21) at 6:00 a.m.
Friday (07/22) at 6:00 p.m.

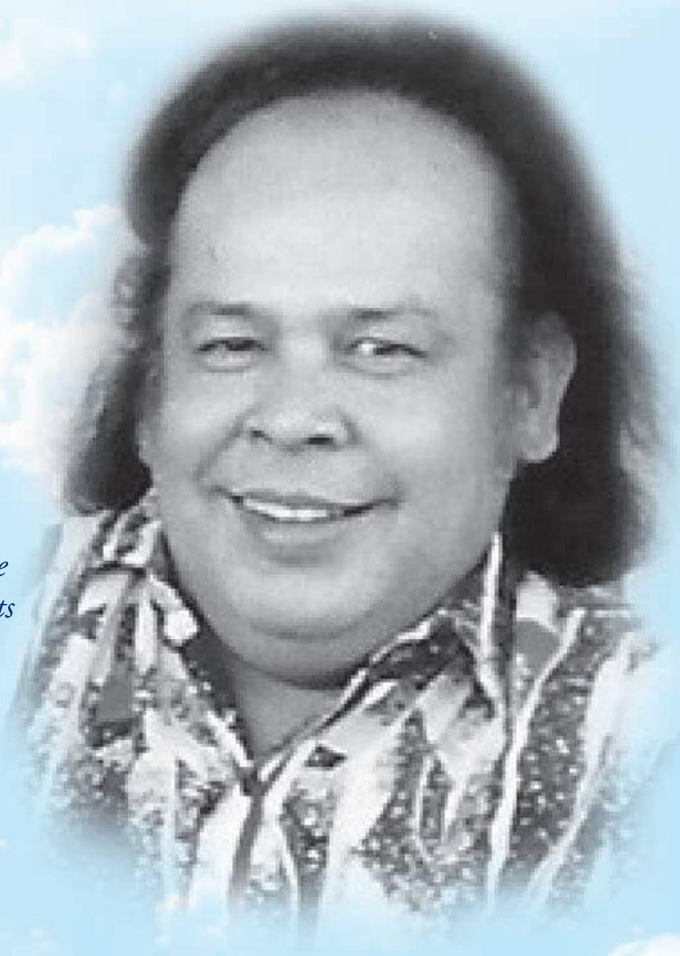
On the final day, July 23rd, Mass will be at 6:00 a.m.; breakfast will be served immediately thereafter.

Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

EDWARD WILLIAM PANGELINAN FLORES, JR.

April 1, 1950 – June 27, 2011
lovingly known as "Junior"



We, the family, wish to extend our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to all our relatives and friends, near and far, for the genuine compassion you showed us during our time of sorrow; most especially the thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support, and other considerate acts of grace and kindness extended to us. Your presence and prayers at the daily masses, nightly rosaries, and at the mass of Christian burial were very comforting. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

May God Bless Us All.

Lupe Atalig Flores and family
Flores & Kintol families

AP

In a June 4, 2011 file photo Mila Kunis arrives at the Spike TV Guys Choice Awards in Culver City, Calif.

Mila Kunis says yes to Marine YouTube date request

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Marine Sgt. Scott Moore has a big date coming up when he returns from military service in Afghanistan. The data systems technician gained fame—and apparently a date with actress Mila Kunis—when he posted a video on YouTube last week inviting the "Black Swan" star to accompany him to the Marine Corps Ball in Greenville, N.C., in November. The annual event marks the founding of the Marines in 1775.

Kunis learned of the video during a recent interview with her "Friends With Benefits" co-star, Justin Timberlake, who urged her to fulfill her patriotic duties. Kunis agreed to the date, saying, "I'll go."

Her publicist, Melissa Raubvogel, had no comment Tuesday.

Moore said Tuesday that he made the video after a fellow Marine bet he wouldn't. Standing on a base in Afghanistan and wearing his uniform and black sunglasses, he says on the 19-second video: "Hey Mila. It's Sergeant Moore, but you can call me Scott. I just wanted to take a moment out of my day to invite you to the Marine Corps Ball on November 18th in Greenville, N.C., with yours truly. So take a second, think about it and get back to me."

He said that though he has not communicated directly with the actress, "I have heard back from her people."

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to share the experience with Ms. Kunis and would like to thank her for accepting my offer," he said.

The corps' anniversary ball is one of the most important events on a Marine's calendar, according to spokeswoman Capt. Kendra Hardesty. Balls are held at bases and less formal celebrations by units in the field to mark the Nov. 10, 1775, founding of the branch.

Balls at garrisons are formal affairs, following a ceremony established in 1952. At each ball, the Marine Corps commandant's birthday message is read, along with a 1921 order issued by Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune summarizing the tradition and mission of the corps.

After that, a cake-cutting ceremony is held in which the first piece is presented to the guest of honor, and then to the oldest Marine present, who in turn passes it to the youngest Marine present.

"This ball will be special not only because of Mila, but also because we will have recently returned from our deployment to Afghanistan," Moore said. He also served in Iraq in 2009.

Kunis won't be the first celebrity to attend a Marine birthday ball. Other Hollywood stars who've attended over the years include action film actor Chuck Norris and R. Lee Ermey, a retired Marine whose most famous role was an intense drill instructor in the film "Full Metal Jacket."

London museum says it will show a lost Leonardo

NEW YORK (AP)—An oil painting recently authenticated as the work of Leonardo da Vinci will be on display at the National Gallery in the fall as part of a larger exhibition on the Renaissance artist, the London museum said Monday.

"Salvator Mundi," which dates to around 1500, depicts a half-length figure of Christ with one hand raised in blessing and the other holding an orb.

The National Gallery said in a statement Monday that the work was shown to its director, curator and other art scholars after undergoing conservation that was completed in 2010.

"We felt that it would be of great interest to include it in the exhibition as a new discovery," the museum said, adding that its curator Luke Syson "is cataloging the picture as by Leonardo da Vinci and this is how the picture will be presented in the exhibition."

The painting will be included in an exhibition titled: "Leonardo da Vinci: Painter of the Court of Milan," from Nov. 9 to Feb. 5, 2012. "This will obviously be the moment to test this important new attribution by direct comparison with works universally accepted as Leonardo's," the museum said.

"Once you walked into the room it had that uncanny presence that Leonardo's have," said Martin Kemp, professor emeritus of art history at Oxford. A researcher of paintings, he was among the experts consulted on the painting.

Detailed examination of the work as well as scientific testing convinced him that he was looking at the real thing. For example, some of the brushwork in the best preserved sections made it clear that the master had been holding the brush.

"None of the students painted like that, none of the followers," Kemp said.

Kemp said he was glad the painting was going on display at the National Gallery. "It's a new Leonardo painting, it's sensational," he said. "I'm glad London is seeing it publicly first."

The work is currently owned by R.W. Chandler, a consortium represented by Robert Simon, an art historian and private art dealer in Tuxedo Park, New York, according to Sara Latham, a spokeswoman for Simon.

"Salvator Mundi," which means Savior of the World, was believed to have been lost. It was first recorded in the art collection of King Charles I of England in 1649. In 1763, it was auctioned by the son of the Duke of Buckingham. It next appeared in 1900, damaged from excessive paint overlay and its authorship unclear, when it was purchased by a British collector, Sir Frederick Cook, according to a released from Simon. Cook's descendants sold it at auction in 1958 for 45 pounds. In 2005, it was acquired by an American estate.

AP

This undated handout photo provided by Robert Simon, shows a painting recently authenticated as the work of Leonardo da Vinci.

R Kelly faces foreclosure on Chicago-area mansion

CHICAGO (AP)—Grammy-winning singer R. Kelly faces a $2.9 million foreclosure on his suburban Chicago mansion.

Crain's Chicago Business reported Tuesday that JPMorgan Chase Bank filed the foreclosure lawsuit last month in Cook County Circuit Court. The complaint states that Kelly hasn't made monthly mortgage payments since June of last year.

Crain's reports the Olympia Field home's appraised value fell 26 percent in a year, to $3.8 million in 2010. The original 1999 loan was for $3.5 million

The principal due is more than $2.9 million.

The R&B singer's spokesman, Allan Mayer, declined to comment about the foreclosure. But he tells The Associated Press that Kelly isn't in financial trouble.

Mayer says Kelly now lives in Chicago and that his recent tour and 2010 album, "Love Letter," were successful.

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Zookeeper
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15
Kevin James, Rosario Dawson
Comedy • Rated PG
Synopsis
Beloved zookeeper Griffin Keyes (Kevin James) decides to quit his job to dive into the dating pool, and finds that his animal friends have been harboring an incredible secret in this comedy from director Frank Coraci (The Wedding Singer, Click). Griffin is a single guy who loves his job at the Franklin Park Zoo. He has a special bond with the animals, yet he can't help but feel lonely each night when he returns to an empty house.

Horrible Bosses
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:20 7:20
Jason Bateman, Jennifer Aniston
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Colin Farrell, Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman, and Charlie Day star in this workplace comedy about three frustrated employees who hatch a plan to kill their micromanaging bosses, only to find their murderous plot snowballing into disaster. Seth Gordon (The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters) directs a screenplay written by Michael Markowitz, Jonathan Goldstein, and John Francis Daley.

Monte Carlo
Fri and Sat 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:10 7:10
Selena Gomez, Leighton Meester
Comedy • Rated PG

Larry Crowne
Fri and Sat 1:30 7:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 7:30
Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts
Comedy drama • Rated PG 13

Cars 2
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05
Owen Wilson, John Turturro
Children's/family • Rated PG

Transformers: Dark of the Moon
Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Bad Teacher
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25
Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake
Comedy • Rated R

Green Lantern
Fri and Sat 4:30 9:55
Sun thru Thurs 4:30
Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively
Action • Rated PG 13

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Schwarzenegger to return to acting in 'Last Stand'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Arnold Schwarzenegger said he'd be back.

The former governor of California will return to acting with a starring role in the Lionsgate film "Last Stand." Schwarzenegger will play a border-town sheriff who unwittingly finds himself battling a notorious drug kingpin on the run.

Joe Drake, president of Lionsgate Motion Picture Group, said Schwarzenegger will "bring incredible magnetism" to the character of Sheriff Owens.

The role represents Schwarzenegger's first major movie role since 2003's "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines." He made a cameo appearance in last summer's "The Expendables."

Drake said Schwarzenegger's appearance in that film "electrified the audience" and that he expects the action star-turned-politician to bring that same energy to this Western tale.

Schwarzenegger

The film will be directed by Korean filmmaker Kim Jee-Woon. No shooting or release date was announced.

Schwarzenegger spokesman Daniel Ketchell confirmed Tuesday that Schwarzenegger will appear in "Last Stand" but did not elaborate.

Schwarzenegger said in May that he was putting his acting projects on hold after disclosing that he fathered a child with a family housekeeper and splitting with wife Maria Shriver.

Ted Danson joins 'CSI: Crime Scene Investigation'

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a long way from running a bar on the sitcom "Cheers," but this fall Ted Danson will join the cast of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS announced late Tuesday.

Danson will play the new supervisor for the Las Vegas CSI team. It's the position originally held by William Petersen and then filled by Laurence Fishburne, who had been on the show since its 2008-09 season.

Besides his `CSI' duties, Danson will remain a series regular on the HBO comedy series, "Bored to Death," CBS said.

The 63-year-old Danson first found TV stardom nearly 30 years ago playing Boston bar owner Sam Malone on "Cheers," a comedy hit on NBC that ran for 11 seasons.

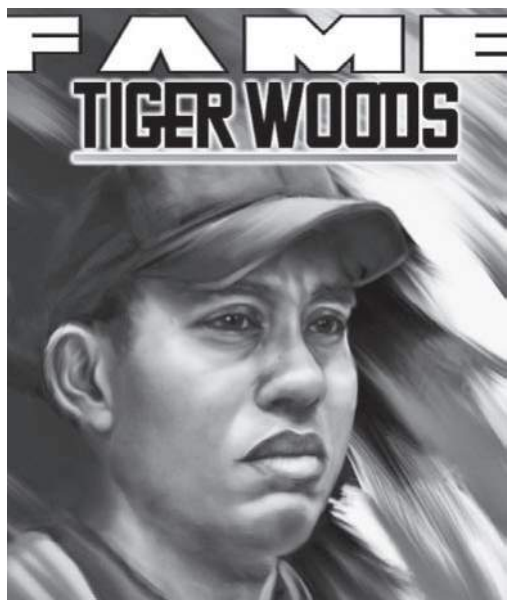
"CSI" will begin its 12th season with Danson aboard on Sept. 21.

Tiger Woods' gets bio treatment in comic book

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Golfer Tiger Woods is the latest celebrity and athlete to get his own unauthorized biography in a comic book.

Publisher Bluewater Productions Inc. said Tuesday that it will release its one-shot issue "Fame: Tiger Woods" on Wednesday in book stores, comic book shops and online, as it expands its already burgeoning line of biography comics that have profiled people from politics to music to film.

Those profiled so far have included first lady Michelle Obama, singer Lady Gaga, Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.



In this comic book cover image released by Bluewater Productions, Tiger Woods is shown on the cover of the "Fame" biography comic. The book, due out Wednesday, July 13, 2011, will cover Woods' life story over 32 pages from his start to becoming a world No. 1.

AP

Written by C.W. Cooke and illustrated by Marcelo Salaza, the 32-page issue is part of the Vancouver, Wash.-based company's look at celebrity culture and how those in it rise from obscurity to notoriety and deal with life in the public eye.

"Tiger Woods is, in most respects, the most famous golfer of all time. He may have had some recent troubles, but his life is one filled with very interesting tidbits," said Jason Schultz, Bluewater's executive vice president.

Woods, 35, was the former world No. 1, but recently tumbled to No. 17, his lowest spot in 14 years.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Brad Pitt in opening segment of MLB All-Star game

NEW YORK (AP)—Before Major League Baseball's All-Star game airs, sports fans will get to hear another all-star in action: Brad Pitt. The Oscar-nominated actor is narrating an opening segment of the 82nd All-Star Game, airing Tuesday night on Fox. MLB says in a statement Pitt and the segment will celebrate baseball stars from the past and present. The 47-year-old actor stars as former baseball player and current Oakland Athletics general manager Billy Beane in the upcoming film "Moneyball," out in September. Fox Sports says Justin Timberlake will be interviewed during the All-Star game. The game is being held at the Chase Field in Phoenix. It airs at 8 p.m. Eastern time.

Seinfeld selling Colo. home for $18 million

TELLURIDE, Colo. (AP)—Comedian Jerry Seinfeld has a deal for you. Seinfeld is selling his home in Telluride for $18 million. The 14,000-square-foot, 12-bedroom, contemporary ranch home is fully furnished. It sits on almost 27 acres in a subdivision. According to KMGH-TV, the home features four fireplaces, a 5,000-square-foot deck, a guest house and a private road.

Jimi guitar strap, Jackson glove offered by NY co.

NEW YORK (AP)—A strap from the guitar Jimi Hendrix burned on stage at the 1967 Monterey Pop Festival is being offered by a New York City auctioneer alongside memorabilia from Michael Jackson and Kurt Cobain. The online Gotta Have It! Rock & Roll Auction runs Wednesday through July 22. Gotta Have It! Collectibles Inc. says the seller of the Hendrix guitar strap is the audience member who caught it at the three-day rock concert in Monterey, Calif. The auction also includes a guitar smashed by Nirvana lead singer Cobain in 1993, the year before he died. There's a glove worn by Jackson at a 1997 concert in London. And there's a dress worn by Katy Perry in her video for "I Kissed a Girl." The late King of Pop's glove is being sold by his friend and publicist Steve Manning.

Singer for 60s band The Grass Roots dies in Fla.

EUSTIS, Fla. (AP)—Rob Grill, the lead singer of 1960s rock band The Grass Roots, has died near Orlando, an official with the medical examiner's office said Tuesday. He was 67. Grill sang on such hits as "Midnight Confessions," "Temptation Eyes," and "Let's Live for Today." He died Monday at a hospice facility in Lake County, Fla., a suburb of Orlando, said Michael Hensley, director of the medical examiner's office. The Grass Roots were a Los Angeles-based band with roots in San Francisco's music scene. They formed in the mid-1960s and went through three incarnations, with band members leaving and others joining, before they recorded a series of hits. Grill joined in 1967 and the group disbanded in 1975. One of the members was Creed Bratton, who now plays the exceedingly eccentric Creed on the TV sitcom "The Office."

Bobby Flay to speak at Racing Hall of Fame

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP)—Celebrity chef and thoroughbred owner Bobby Flay will give the keynote address at the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Aug. 12. Flay recently won his first Grade 1 stakes when Her Smile captured the $250,000 Prioress at Belmont Park on July 4. He won the $1 million Juvenile Fillies Turf with More Than Real at last year's Breeders' Cup at Churchill Downs. This year's Hall of Fame inductees include trainer Jerry Hollendorfer and jockey Shelby "Pike" Barnes. Flay is best known for his cooking skills, his restaurants and his shows on the Food Network.

Failed drug test delays DMX's Ariz. prison release

PHOENIX (AP)—The rapper known as DMX will have to spend at least an extra week in an Arizona state prison for failing a drug test. The 40-year-old whose real name is Earl Simmons was given a year in prison in December after his probation was revoked for failing to submit to drug testing and driving on a suspended license. He was credited with 117 days he had already spent behind bars. Arizona Department of Corrections spokesman Barrett Marson confirmed DMX was due to be released from a prison in Yuma on Wednesday. His new release date is July 19. Prison records show he's also been caught smoking twice and once with drugs since January. He's been making 20 cents an hour as a porter. TMZ.com first reported the failed drug test.

Widowed mom's ugly behavior is sign that she needs help

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I agree with your advice to "Driven Away in Georgia" (May 26), whose widowed mother has become so bitter, all eight of her children avoid her. As a clinical neuropsychologist who works with people with dementia and other aging-related problems, I'd like to share my thoughts.

When a spouse dies, previously undetected early-stage dementia can become apparent to others. If the surviving spouse had pre-existing cognitive deficits, they may have been concealed by the competency of the other spouse. After the spouse dies, the structure and functional support once provided is suddenly removed. Symptoms then become apparent to family members. Another diagnostic option might be depression, which can often resemble dementia in elderly people.

There are medications that can help manage and even slow down the progression of dementia, and early intervention may partially stabilize her at a higher level of functioning. You were right to recommend that family members become more involved rather than back away since this woman clearly needs either psychiatric or neurological intervention, or both. Thank you for shedding light on a very common problem that can touch any family.

RICHARD FULBRIGHT, Ph.D., DALLAS

DEAR DR. FULBRIGHT: Thank you for sharing your expertise and raising awareness for those with family members who are also struggling with similar issues. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: In addition to concerns about dementia, the mother may be overwhelmed with living life as a widow. The eight surviving children should try to arrange for part-time hired help for her household chores that build up. If Mom is living on limited income, she may be crushed with financial stress. Perhaps it's time for her to downsize to a more manageable home.

Instead of avoiding her, these "kids" need to find out exactly what problems are overwhelming their mother and get her help.

CONCERNED SON IN LAUREL, MD.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Driven" and her siblings could offer more by getting together, taking potluck dishes and meeting at Mom's house over a weekend to split up her chore list. My own mom would say, "Many hands make labor light"—and laughter makes the time pass quickly. If they can do this two or three times a year, Mom might feel more secure and relaxed.

Her children also should take turns taking Mom out to dinner and a movie once a month. It will give her something to look forward to. When you lose someone who was involved in your daily life, it gets lonely.

A tip to the kids: Imagine yourselves in your mom's shoes instead of thinking about how much you have to do. Even a person with dementia, if this is the case, can be happy with the right help.

NANCY IN PAYSON, ARIZ.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: If each child contributed a small amount of money each month, they could hire a handyman to take care of the various projects Mom needs to be done. A cleaning person is also an option. Aging parents can be a challenge, but pulling away and spending less time with them will only lead to regrets later.

LAUREN, SAN DIEGO

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Anytime our family got together, or my folks were having special guests over, my mom would ask me to clean her house. I resented it, figuring since I could clean my home, Mom could clean hers. Mom passed more than a year ago, and I'd give ANYTHING to be able to clean house for her again.

BILL IN TRASKWOOD, ARK.

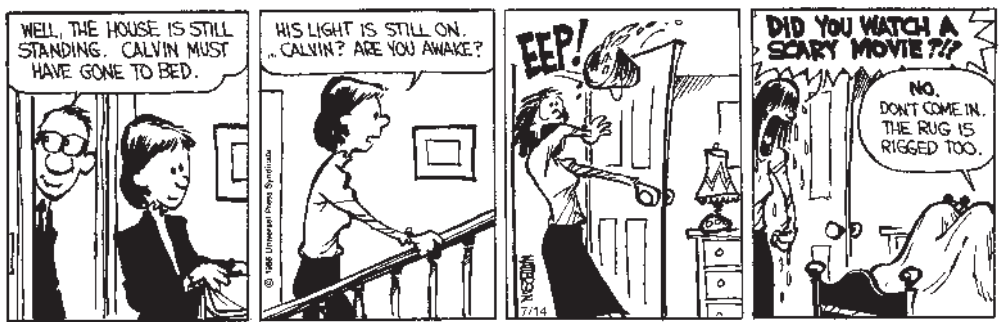
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

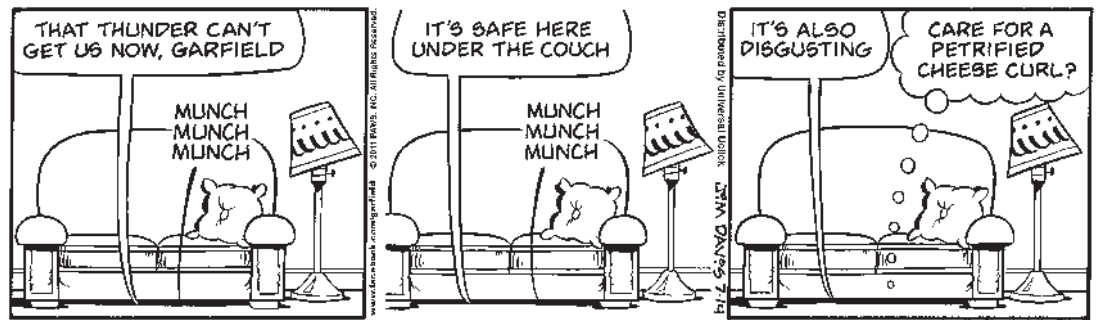
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, THE HOUSE IS STILL STANDING. CALVIN MUST HAVE GONE TO BED.
HIS LIGHT IS STILL ON. .. CALVIN? ARE YOU AWAKE?
EEP!
DID YOU WATCH A SCARY MOVIE ?!?
NO. DON'T COME IN. THE RUG IS RIGGED TOO.

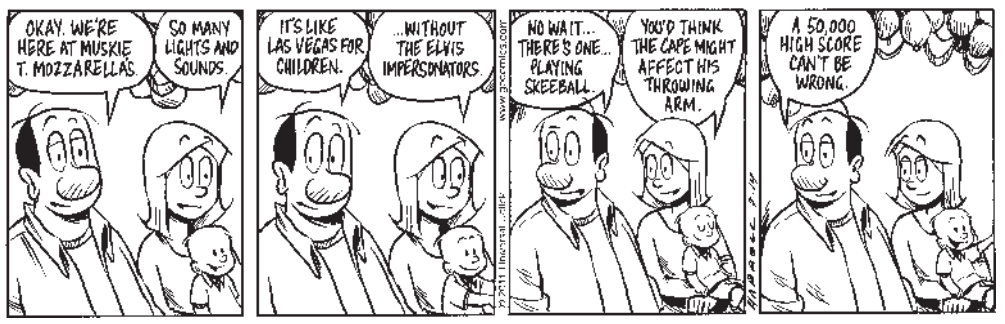
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


THAT THUNDER CAN'T GET US NOW, GARFIELD
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
IT'S SAFE HERE UNDER THE COUCH
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
IT'S ALSO DISGUSTING
CARE FOR A PETRIFIED CHEESE CURL?

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. WE'RE HERE AT MUSKIE T. MOZZARELLAS.
SO MANY LIGHTS AND SOUNDS.
IT'S LIKE LAS VEGAS FOR CHILDREN.
...WITHOUT THE ELVIS IMPERSONATORS.
NO WAIT... THERE'S ONE... PLAYING SKEEBALL.
YOU'D THINK THE CAPE MIGHT AFFECT HIS THROWING ARM.
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

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If that is too technically challenging for you, slam your forehead against the key pad. If you can't hear this message, turn your phone right-side-up.
If we still haven't convinced you to just hang up and stop bothering us with dumb questions, remain on the line and a representative will be with you sometime this week.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

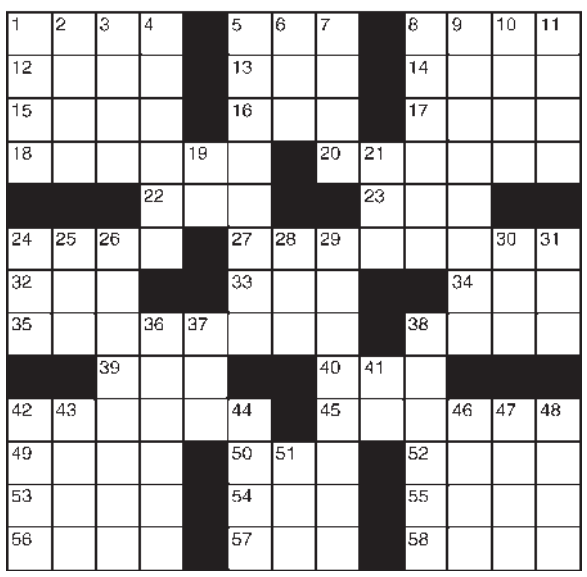
ACROSS
1 Summertime pest
5 Leap
8 Mountain goat
12 Opulent
13 Forest bird
14 Thailand, once
15 From the beginning
16 Born
17 Taj Mahal city
18 Curie or Pompadour
20 Straightens
22 Trigger's rider
23 Scull tool
24 Unpaid bill
27 Important person
32 — Baba
33 Popular card game
34 Greek vowel
35 Pre-WWII music-makers
38 Kentucky fort
39 Dadaist artist
40 Baltimore newspaper
42 Go
45 Chalkboard accessory
49 Pumps up the volume
50 Every last bit
52 November responsibility
53 Wire measures
54 Mainlander's memento
55 Verve
56 Quarry
57 A billion years
58 Auctioneer's call

DOWN
1 Metric unit
2 1492 vessel
3 Served perfectly
4 Frustrate
5 "South Pacific" song
6 Have 24-Across
7 Entreaty
8 Book before Jeremiah
9 Dartmouth team
10 Deserve
11 Opening day?
19 37-Down, for ex.
21 Depressed
24 Slight touch
25 Inventor Wallach
26 New York City
28 Third-party abbr.
29 Kate of reality TV
30 Ike's old command
31 Remiss
36 Shamelessly bold
37 Spring seg.
38 Jacks
41 Ancient Sumerian city
42 Moist
43 Mideast noble
44 Story
46 Unaccompanied
47 List-ending abbr.
48 Tear asunder
51 Zodiac sign

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	A	M	B	■	P	J	S	■	A	D	O	S
I	S	A	Y	■	I	O	U	■	T	A	M	E
D	A	M	P	E	N	E	D	■	E	M	I	T
S	P	E	A	R	■	■	S	Q	U	A	T	S
■	■	■	S	E	A	M	■	U	P	S	■	■
B	I	D	S	■	G	O	B	I	■	C	E	L
E	R	A	■	L	A	P	A	Z	■	U	K	E
G	F	M	■	A	R	F	S	■	A	S	F	A
■	■	A	I	M	■	D	E	E	P	■	■	■
R	E	G	G	A	E	■	■	G	A	F	F	E
E	V	I	L	■	D	A	M	O	C	L	E	S
D	I	N	O	■	G	N	U	■	H	E	L	P
S	E	G	O	■	E	N	D	■	E	E	L	Y

Yesterday's answer 7-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matthew Fox, 45; Jackie Earle Haley, 50; Jane Lynch, 51; Harry Dean Stanton, 85.

Happy Birthday: You have to give in to change instead of fighting the inevitable. Opportunity is present, but only if you are willing to venture into the unknown or the unfamiliar. Once you open up to new possibilities, the rest will fall into place. Trust in your abilities and you will not be disappointed. Your numbers are 5, 12, 16, 21, 33, 38, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may not like what you encounter at work or at home, but how you handle it will count in the end. Make sure you play by the rules. You will rise above the obstacles if you stick to your beliefs. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You will surpass everyone's expectations if you follow through with your plans and make a big splash. Going overboard isn't something you do often, but now is a good time to surprise everyone by doing so. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): This is not the day to lend or donate to a cause you know little about. Keep your money in a safe place, remembering that charity begins at home. Self-improvement projects will pay off. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Let your intuition guide you when dealing with people from different backgrounds or with a philosophy that is new to you. Networking or getting out with that special someone in the evening hours will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Whatever you do that is unique will pay off big-time. By entertaining the people you want to do business with or by forming a partnership, you will gain insight into how you can get what you want more quickly and easily. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Everything is changing quickly, but that doesn't mean you need to act fast. Let things settle down before you make a decision. Social events will bring you in contact with someone who can lead you in a prosperous direction. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Watch what you say. Someone will be looking for information that can be used against you. Don't name-drop or exaggerate if you want someone to like you. Don't pretend you know more than you do. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): There is a lot happening that isn't visible just yet, so it is best to take a wait-and-see approach. A social event will take a surprising turn. Consider what you always wanted to do for a living and discuss how to make it happen. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Research what you must do to reach your objectives. A sudden change in your personal life may confuse you, but you eventually will realize that the change is in your best interest. Your quick wit will keep you in front of the competition. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may have a hard time keeping a lid on your thoughts and an even more difficult time trying not to take over to ensure things are done to your specifications. A chance meeting with someone from your past can open up ideas for the future. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You will be pulled in many directions, and it will be important to recognize where each path leads. It may be difficult to be logical about personal issues, but you will have to put aside your emotions and do what's right. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Getting involved in a neighborhood event will help you understand what everyone else wants and how you can make it happen. An effort to improve your environment will lead to social opportunities that will enhance your love life. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined to follow your own path. You are sensitive to the environment and quick to react to opportunities.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	7					1	9	
6					5			8
			7	4		6		5
		1 5				9	4	
	4					3		
8		7		1	2			
4			8					7
	9	2					3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	4	2	9	1	6	7	5
5	2	7	3	6	4	1	8	9
1	6	9	8	7	5	3	2	4
4	5	3	7	1	8	9	6	2
2	8	6	5	3	9	7	4	1
7	9	1	4	2	6	5	3	8
6	4	5	1	8	3	2	9	7
9	1	2	6	4	7	8	5	3
3	7	8	9	5	2	4	1	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LOS CABOS — **Solution: 7 letters**

S	C	O	D	I	J	E	N	I	L	T	S	A	O	C
U	S	A	L	L	I	V	S	T	S	I	R	U	O	T
O	N	I	E	V	Y	T	U	A	E	B	S	N	R	S
E	O	C	T	M	A	R	Z	O	U	E	S	A	U	H
G	I	U	O	E	U	C	L	G	V	T	D	N	U	U
R	T	I	H	T	A	X	A	O	I	I	S	N	B	R
O	C	S	U	P	E	M	C	T	T	H	T	T	A	R
G	A	I	E	M	B	S	U	I	I	I	A	R	Y	I
N	R	N	L	I	I	Y	O	N	N	O	Y	O	S	C
I	T	E	L	C	E	N	E	G	N	R	N	S	L	A
H	T	I	N	N	E	G	R	O	W	T	H	E	O	N
S	A	A	T	A	O	B	S	R	E	V	I	R	R	E
I	R	E	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	T	S
F	S	W	A	V	E	S	O	G	A	I	T	N	A	S
C	R	U	I	S	E	T	I	D	E	S	H	I	P	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Precious

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NL prevails in All-Star Game, 5-1

National League's Tyler Clippard of the Washington Nationals pitches during the fourth inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game Tuesday, July 12, 2011, in Phoenix.

AP

PHOENIX (AP)—Prince Fielder's three-run homer sailed over the left-field wall at Chase Field, and the conveyor belt from the National League bullpen began.

One after another, a hard-throwing pitcher walked to the mound—well, one of them sprinted and slid into the infield feet first—and then shut down the American League's hitters for the second straight year.

With pitching, speed and a little bit of power from the Prince, the NL is king of the All-Star game once again, using the same formula that worked during its dominating run in the 1970s and '80s.

Roy Halladay combined with nine relievers on a six-hitter in the NL's 5-1 victory Tuesday night, giving the senior circuit its first two-game winning streak since the mid-1990s.

Brian Wilson got two outs for manager Bruce Bochy and earned the save, just as he did for the Giants skipper when San Francisco won the championship last November.

"It felt like a little bit like last year when you come into a pressure situation and you try to do a clutch performance as you can," Wilson said.

Heath Bell provided the image of the night an inning earlier, sprinting in from the bullpen and tearing up the turf with a slide just short of the mound.

"I told some guys I wanted to have fun this All-Star game and needed some ideas, so guys back home kind of said slide on the mound," he revealed. "Bochy said before the game that this really counts, so I thought I was not going to do it, but then we were up by four runs."

His NL teammates were impressed.

"I think he nailed it," Wilson said. "I don't know if I'd make it. I think I'd slip, ankle, flip, next thing you know I can't pitch."

The NL claimed home-field advantage in the World Series, its only blemish being Adrian Gonzalez's homer in the fourth off Cliff Lee. Fielder connected in the bottom half of the inning.

"It's hard to beat great pitching and a three-run homer," Bochy said.

With several big names as no-shows, the AL lost more than the game.

Boston right-hander Josh Beckett warmed up, then bowed out with a sore knee. Detroit slugger Miguel Cabrera left after hurting the oblique muscle in his side while swinging.

"We are not going to use not having Josh as an excuse," AL manager Ron Washington said. "I think when you look at the ballgame, the bottom line is the National League pitching was outstanding. You know, we ended up giving up one big inning and they didn't give up any."

Even before they were hurt, many stars were missing. Justin Verlander, Felix Hernandez, CC Sabathia and other aces who started Sunday were ineligible, Alex Rodriguez was among those on the disabled list and Derek Jeter wanted a break. In all, 16 of 84 All-Stars dropped out.

Tyler Clippard got the win despite allowing a single to his only batter, Adrian Beltre. Clayton Kershaw, Jair Jurrjens, Craig Kimbrel, Jonny Venters, Joel Hanrahan also relieved and combined to keep the NL ahead.

Fielder won the MVP award after becoming the first Brewers player to homer in an All-Star game. The World Series edge could help him later, with Milwaukee and St. Louis tied for the Central lead at the break. A half-hour after the win, the Brewers announced they had traded for former All-Star closer Francisco Rodriguez of the New York Mets.

"That was part of the message, how important it was for us, and how important the game was: Do it again for the National League champion," Bochy said.

Fielder, son of former All-Star Cecil Fielder, was booed during the Home Run Derby a day earlier. He was the NL captain for the Derby, and local fans were angry he didn't select Arizona's Justin Upton.

"I didn't take it personal at all," Fielder said. "I understood it. No hard feelings."

Andre Ethier singled in a run off rookie reliever Jordan Walden in the fifth, and slimmed-down Pablo Sandoval had an RBI double off Brandon League in the seventh.

The NL dashed around the bases and swiped three bags, all in one inning and two by Starlin Castro. In all, the Nationals have enjoyed their best run since taking three in a row from 1994-96—they had lost 12 straight games played to a decision before a 3-1 victory at Anaheim last year.

Before a crowd of 47,994 that included Muhammad Ali, this was no desert classic—except for fans of pitching, which has become resurgent as the Steroids Era has receded. Scoring in the first half dropped to its lowest level in 19 years and the major league batting average shrunk to its smallest midseason figure since 1985.

The All-Star homers were the first since J.D. Drew connected at Yankee Stadium three years ago. The AL finished with six hits for the second straight year and its two-year total of two runs is its lowest since 1995-96.

"Just a coincidence," Curtis Granderson said.

Given the temperature outside, the theme song could have been Buster Poindexter's "Hot Hot Hot." And except for Lee, that's what the NL pitching was.

Texas' C.J. Wilson, the fourth AL pitcher, took the loss for the team run by his manager, Washington. Wilson had trouble with the unfamiliar role of late: coming out of the 'pen.

"It is a complete circus. You don't have a routine at all," he said. "The ball launches here."

Outside in the 99-degree heat, two separate groups opposed to Arizona's controversial immigration law protested outside before the game. One quietly passed out white ribbons that symbolized peace and unity and the other loudly chanting in bullhorns and marching in circles with signs that read "Boycott hate" and "Stand with us."

However, there was little sign of the ribbons in the stands.

While it was hot outside in the Sonoran Desert, it was a comfy 72 thanks to an 8,000-ton cooling system in the ballpark.

Halladay and Lee showed the strength that has given Philadelphia the best record in the majors, Halladay retired six straight batters—the first to do that in an All-Star game since Roger Clemens in 2001. Lee got out his first five.

"I figured a lot of those guys were going to be swinging early," said Halladay, who started for the AL in 2009 and joined Vida Blue, Clemens and Randy Johnson as the only pitchers to open for both leagues.

Gonzalez, who switched leagues in the offseason by going from San Diego to Boston, lined an 86 mph cutter just to the right-field side of the swimming pool, where women in bikinis and a man in a Santa Claus outfit were watching.

Carlos Beltran singled to shortstop leading off the bottom half and Matt Kemp singled before Fielder gave the NL a 3-1 lead by hitting an 88 mph cutter the opposite way to left-center on a 2-2 count. The drive gave every major league team except the Diamondbacks at least one All-Star home run.

"They've got great pitching and great hitting," Kevin Youkilis said. "That's what makes these things kind of fun."

Fielder takes MVP honors

PHOENIX (AP)—Prince Fielder understood the boos, that his decision not to take hometown star Justin Upton with him to the Home Run Derby had cast him into a role of black-hatted villain in the desert.

His two kids didn't quite like it, which made quieting those catcalls, even for a second, feel oh so sweet.

Shaking off two days of jeers, Fielder hit a crowd-shushing three-run homer that had his kids smiling and earned him All-Star game MVP honors in the National League's 5-1 win over the American League on Tuesday night.

"Of course your family is going to be a little … they didn't like it too much," Fielder said with sons Jadyn and Haven by his side. "But we didn't dwell on it. I didn't take it too personal because, I mean, I probably would have booed myself, too, if I was an Arizona fan."

The NL captain for the Home Run Derby on Monday night, Fielder irked the locals when he bypassed Upton, the Diamondbacks' ultra-talented right fielder.

Fielder couldn't keep them quiet during the derby, missing the finals while being booed every at-bat. But he came through in the All-Star game, hitting a long drive off Texas left-hander C.J. Wilson in the fourth inning that sent a collective ohh! through the crowd.

"It's hard to beat great pitching and a three-run homer," NL manager Bruce Bochy said. "Great at-bat, two strikes, and we are down one run, and you get the Most Valuable Player, which he should. So it's nice to hear the cheers for him because I know yesterday, they wanted Upton in there."

A three-time All-Star, Fielder was on the spot after Major League Baseball shook up the format for the Home Run Derby this year.

Instead of bringing in eight players to whack it out, two captains were selected to pick four-person teams from each league. Fielder got the NL honors and Boston's David Ortiz, the defending derby champion, got to pick the AL stars.

Upton figured to be a favorite to make the NL team, in part because he was from the host club, but also because he had put up good power numbers this season and, obviously, knows where to hit the ball at spacious Chase Field.

Instead, Fielder selected teammate Rickie Weeks, Dodgers center fielder Matt Kemp and Cardinals left fielder Matt Holliday, drawing the ire of Diamondbacks fans.

They let him have it, too, raining boos down on him during introductions at the Home Run Derby and with each at-bat Monday night. Arizona's fans also took it out on Weeks and Kemp, screaming out boos and chants of "Justin Upton!" during their at-bats.

Fielder managed to get through a swing-off to reach the derby semifinals, going a perfect 5 for 5, but came up short after that, relegated to watching while Adrian Gonzalez and eventual champion Robinson Cano continued on.

The fans weren't done letting him have it, though, coming up with more rounds of boos during the All-Star game introductions and each of his first two at-bats.

Second to St. Louis' Lance Berkman in the NL with 22 homers, Fielder put a lump in their throats in the second at-bat, sending a towering drive to left-center that caromed off the top of the wall and put the NL up 3-1. He was done after that, but didn't really need to do anymore.

"I don't know if I transformed them, but I understood," said Fielder, the first Brewers player to win the All-Star MVP award. "That just shows you how much Justin means to them. Yeah, I didn't take it personal at all. I think these guys (his sons) took it more personal than me."

US ready for semifinal vs France

MOENCHENGLADBACH, Germany(AP)—The Americans feel just fine, thank you, not tired a bit. The high they were on after that epic Brazil game? That's so yesterday.

The U.S. women are one game away from reaching their first World Cup final since 1999 - the last time they won soccer's biggest prize - and the only thing on their minds now is beating France.

"Losing is not an option," Abby Wambach said Tuesday. "We want to win this thing, and France is standing in our way right now."

The Americans are the top-ranked team in the world and defending Olympic gold medalists, yet they were almost afterthoughts when the tournament began two weeks ago. Two-time defending champion Germany was considered the heavy favorite, sure to get a boost playing on home soil. Then there was Brazil, runner-up at the last three major tournaments and led by Marta, FIFA's player of the year five years running.

And the U.S.? They had to win a playoff with Italy just to get here, and they'd been uncharacteristically inconsistent with three losses in a five-month span.

But the Germans are now spectators, stunned by Japan in the quarterfinals. Brazil is gone, too, losing to the Americans in a penalty shootout in one of the most exciting games ever at the World Cup, men's or women's. And the U.S.? They're still playing, and they go into Wednesday night's semifinal with more than a touch of swagger.

"We have what it takes," Wambach said. "It's just a matter of putting it all together."

The biggest uncertainty for the Americans isn't their fitness, it's their backline. Rachel Buehler has started all but one game the last two years, and her bruising style of defense - she isn't called the "Buehldozer" for nothing - has been vital. But she's suspended for the semifinal after getting a red card for taking down Marta in the box in the 65th minute Sunday.

While U.S. coach Pia Sundhage wouldn't say who will play in Buehler's place, Becky Sauerbrunn was working with the starters during training Tuesday.

"I've been fortunate enough to play with her (with the WPS' magicJack) so we're very connected that way," said Christie Rampone, the U.S. captain and its other central defender. "Becky and I feel confident together. We'll watch some film on France today, see what little tactics they have, what little tendencies they have with their forwards, communicate with each other and we'll be fine."

AP

US goalkeeper Hope Solo stops a shot during the training of the United States on the eve of the semifinal match against France during the Women's Soccer World Cup in Moenchengladbach, Germany, Tuesday, July 12, 2011.

They will have to be because, much like Brazil, France has creativity and flair.

Playmaker Louisa Necib, she of the silken touch and deft passes, has been likened to Zinedine Zidane, the highest compliment a French player can get. Her control of the midfield is masterful, the driving force behind France's quick, fluid offense. Les Bleues often appear seamless - no surprise considering 10 of the 21 players are teammates at Olympique Lyonnais, which won this year's women's Champions League final.

"For us, it's very important to be patient," Sundhage said. "We need to pick up the rhythm and dictate the tempo, and we need the midfield to get more involved. I don't want to make it a stretch game. Or make it a (physical) fight."

But France has struggled against bigger, more physical teams in the past, and they don't come much stronger than the Americans.

"It's true we've had one additional day" of rest, French coach Bruno Bini said. "I think it's quite fair because the American team is in better shape."

While the Americans have their quickest turnaround of the tournament, getting just two days rest between games, France hasn't played since Saturday. But Les Bleues had an emotional doozy, too, beating England 4-3 on penalties after scoring in the 88th minute to tie it 1-1.

"It's very easy after a victory to be in shape again, especially when you've already seen yourself packing to go home," Bini said. "After that, it is very easy to get highly motivated for this match."

Unlike the Americans, who have reached the semifinals at each of the six World Cups, this is the first trip for Les Bleues. And they have never beaten the Americans, going 0-11-1 in their previous meetings. The U.S. has scored 38 goals in the 12 games to just eight for France.

Of course, Mexico had never beaten the Americans, either, and look what happened in regional qualifying.

But the "bumpy road," as Sundhage likes to call it, has made the Americans stronger, their success even sweeter. Their grit and determination is one of the reasons they've become such a huge hit back home, with Hollywood celebrities, professional athletes and folks who've never seen a soccer game before all rallying behind them.

Should the U.S. beat France, it would face either Japan or Sweden in Sunday's final, with a chance to become the first team to win three World Cup titles.

"I always think it's important for a team to go through adversity. Then you realize how much it hurts," Shannon Boxx said. "We watched some of the games day before (Brazil). You saw the faces of the teams that didn't win and you don't want to feel that way. I think that's a huge motivator right there."

NFL: What's ahead if no deal this week

NEW YORK (AP)—Think back four months to that disappointing day in March when the NFL lockout began. The general opinion was the owners and players would reach a new labor agreement long before training camps opened.

They had plenty of time and about 9 billion reasons to get it done.

Well, some training camps open at the end of next week, and the two sides have not yet gotten it done. Yes, they are closer than ever, with several key issues—particularly how to split more than $9 billion in revenues—just about settled.

But there is serious doubt that a disruption to the preseason can be avoided. Although the regular season still appears safe, the situation isn't as simple as shaking hands and going back to business as usual, even assuming owners and players patched everything up when face-to-face talks resume Wednesday—an unlikely scenario.

Once an agreement in principle on the core economic issues is drawn up, there will be more work to be done. That's because there are certain issues that won't be addressed in full until after the NFLPA re-establishes itself as a union—a process that might take a couple of days—and can then serve once again as a collective bargaining unit for the players.

Items that could fall under that umbrella include the league's drug-testing program, health insurance, retired players' pensions and other benefits—none of which is likely to be resolved completely while the union is still dissolved.

Yet without a collective bargaining agreement in place soon, many teams will need to delay training camp. The New York Giants and Jets and Baltimore Ravens already have canceled out-of-town camps and will do all their preseason work at their home facilities, at a significant cost to the communities where they normally would have gone.

The Pro Football Hall of Fame inductions will go on as scheduled on Aug. 6. But the game the following day between the St. Louis Rams and Chicago Bears is in jeopardy, which certainly would put a damper on the festivities.

And with owners and players haggling over the rookie wage scale, guidelines for free agency and how benefits for retired players will be funded, the next few days are critical. Should the differences remain strong and prevent a timely deal, the first full weekend of preseason games could be canceled—at a cost upward of $60 million.

Even when an agreement is reached, it needs to be ratified by players and owners, a potentially time-consuming process.

There are a few court cases that must be resolved, including the antitrust lawsuit brought against the league by Tom Brady, Peyton Manning, Drew Brees and seven other players. Those plaintiffs were updated by the NFLPA on a conference call Tuesday.

There's even a chance the players still could pursue a lockout injunction for rookies and free agents after an appeals court ruled last week that the work stoppage could continue.

It might seem odd that the two sides are so close on sharing revenues, the most contentious issue back in March, yet are being held up by other topics. But the owners have been seeking more right-of-first-refusal tags for unrestricted free agents, and they want a rookie salary system to extend about halfway into the first round of the draft. They also seek longer rookie contracts for first-rounders.

The players are adamant about getting back to free agency rules similar to 2009, when a four-year veteran whose contract expired was unrestricted. That changed to six years in 2010 because there was no salary cap.

Extensive talks last week produced little progress on either issue. While attorneys for both sides spent the last two days clarifying language for a potential CBA, the owners and players will be discussing those same subjects again Wednesday.

Those negotiations do not include the mediator, U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan, who is on vacation this week. Boylan has ordered both sides to a meeting in Minneapolis next Tuesday, and the owners have a special meeting set for July 21 in Atlanta, where they could vote to ratify a new deal if one is reached.

That means there's intense pressure on Commissioner Roger Goodell and NFLPA chief DeMaurice Smith to keep things moving in a positive direction. Disruptions to the planned preseason schedule cost money, decreasing the overall revenue pie.

Arum: Bam Bam another probable Pacquiao foe

BOXING

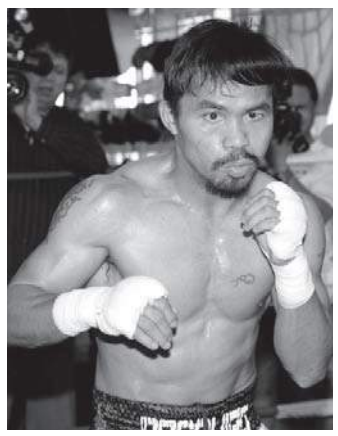
CARSON, Calif. (AP)— Brandon Rios tipped his blue Royals cap back on his head and beamed at the big cluster of fans waiting for him Saturday night. After traveling a perilous road from Garden City, Kan., to California, he had finally arrived at the forefront of the lightweight division.

His next step is likely to take him up into boxing's most competitive weight class along a path that leads to Manny Pacquiao.

Rios (28-0-1, 21 KOs) battered Urbano Antillon with power and authority at Home Depot Center, finishing off the elite contender with two third-round knockdowns before the bout was stopped with 11 seconds left. Rios' resilience and aggression were no surprise, but his flair is what really draws the boxing world's attention to the 135-pound champion who wears leopard-print trunks in a nod to his nickname: Bam Bam.

"Any champions looking for a fight, I'm right here," said Rios, who survived numerous scrapes with the law back home in Kansas before moving to Southern California. "There's Amir Khan, there's Marcos Maidana, but I want the toughest guys at 140. I want to fight everybody."

And Rios doesn't shy away from the prospect of taking on pound-for-pound champion Pacquiao, who shares Rios' instinctive love for a good brawl.



Pacquiao

Rios

Beyond a high-risk, high-reward style that always makes for compelling fights, Rios also has a huge advantage in landing a bout with Pacquiao: They're both promoted by Top Rank.

It won't happen right away, but every Pacquiao fan should become acquainted with Rios.

"In a year or two, I would put him in with Manny Pacquiao," Top Rank chief Bob Arum said. "I think he's a guy that can match Manny's speed and power. He has the heart. He has the strength. I think it would be very competitive."

Most of Rios' recent fights haven't been as competitive as his opponents hoped. Rios is just too relentless, with trainer Robert Garcia channeling his brawling instincts into game plans that have broken down every challenger.

"He says he's a street fighter, but he's grown up a lot," manager Cameron Dunkin said. "He's now saying to us, `Gosh, I'm pretty good. I didn't know if I was before, but now I know.'"

Rios has stopped nine of his last 10 opponents, with seven knockouts before the sixth round. Only Anthony Peterson avoided being stopped, but he was on his way to a one-sided loss last September when he was disqualified for repeated low blows.

Rios brawled in the first two rounds with Antillon, who landed several shots that would have staggered most opponents. Rios shook them off and kept coming forward—and he finally broke down Antillon with a left hook to the top of his head, resulting in the first knockdown and eventually leaving Antillon woozy on his feet before the bout was halted with 11 seconds left in the third round.

"I knew he's a good puncher, so I thought it was going to be tougher than it was," Rios said. "He's a warrior, but the younger and tougher fighter won."

Rios has remarkable strength for a 135-pounder, and he would be a compelling opponent for two-belt lightweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez. But Rios knows the biggest names and toughest fights are all at 140 pounds: Khan, Maidana, Timothy Bradley, Robert Guerrero, Zab Judah and Devon Alexander.

That's why Dunkin believes they're ready to step up to junior welterweight, possibly for Rios' next bout after the division shakes out over the summer. Khan fights Judah in Las Vegas in two weeks, while Guerrero moves up to 140 pounds to take on Maidana next month in San Jose.

"I think at 140, he's going to be a monster," Dunkin said. "He can do more strength training and really use his body. I think he could be unstoppable, and then we'll see where to go from there."

Rios would provide a welcome change in style for Pacquiao, who has slogged through his most recent fights with little of his usual flair. Pacquiao's last three bouts have ended in plodding decisions over bigger, slower foes, although the Filipino congressman should get a bit more action in November in his third fight against Marquez.

RGA July Ace Sunday at COP

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding its July Ace tournament this Sunday at Coral Ocean Point.

Check-in time is at 11am, while tee off is at 12pm.

The score to beat is Tars Olopai's net 70. If no one scores better than 70 in this weekend's tournament, Olopai will get the July Ace title and earn a slot to the RGA Club Championship.

Participants in this Sunday's event are asked to pay $5 hosting fee, which will be used for members' dinner after the tournament. The host member will be announced before the tournament kicks off.

RGA is also reminding monthly winners to compete in at least six RGA events to qualify for the year-end club championship.

The club is still open for membership at $25 annually. For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Olopai at 483-5508, Tony Rogolifoi at 288-3515, and Jess Wabol at 288-1129. ***(PR)***

MOBIL

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gram, you don't need to pay the $25 annual club registration fee. The club fee covers the $15 registration fee per player to Northern Marianas Islands Football Association and $10 for uniforms," Matansa general secretary Joven Cruz said.

"This donation will help us cover the cost of registration fee for many of our players. Matansa Football Club is very grateful to Mobil Oil Marianas Islands Inc," Cruz added.

For the donor's part, Anthony Wenceslao, field operations manager of Mobil Oil Marianas Islands, Inc, said their company has always been supportive of programs for our youth.

"Mobil is proud to support sports groups, such as the Matansa Football Club, and programs that aim to develop teamwork, friendship, and active lifestyle among our youth. Congratulations for a job well done to all the Matansa FC players and their families for a terrific season," Wenceslao said.

Matansa' U15 girls team won last spring season's championship for the club's fifth straight title in that age group. The U15 champion squad finished the season with a league-best 7-1-1 win-draw-loss card, besting teams from Paire, MP United, and Tan Holdings.

In the boys U15, Matansa placed runner-up to MP United last spring and is expected to give the latter a run for its money in the fall season, which begins in September.

Matansa is one of the first football clubs formed in the CNMI and has produced athletes who were chosen to represent the CNMI in off-island competitions. The recent ones were Sean Perez and Jirech Yobech, who will suit up for the CNMI U15 Team that will compete in the East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament in Taipei, Taiwan later this month.

YVONNE

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in Korea. Pharmin is entered in the 100m sprint.

The tournament in Daegu will be Bennett's third straight world championship competition. She debuted in the prestigious tournament in 2009 when she and Tyrone Omar competed in Osaka, Japan. Then in 2009, Bennett and Clayton Kenty participated in the world championships in Berlin, Germany.

In Osaka, Bennett raced against then world champion Veronica Campbell of Jamaica and set a CNMI national mark in the 100m run. The Commonwealth sprinter timed in at 13.16 seconds to break her own mark of 13.57 seconds, which she logged during a high school meet in Guam in May 2007.

In Berlin in 2009, Bennett was entered in the 100m race, but failed to join the qualifying run due to colds. She got sick in Berlin for three days and her condition worsened on the day of the race. Less than a week before the race in Berlin, Bennett competed in the Oceania Regional Championships /Micronesian Athletics Association in Queensland, Australia.

Next month in Korea, the 21-year-old sprinter is expected to have fresh legs for the 200m race, as she has about two months to prepare for the event. Bennett is currently in Boise, Idaho and will go straight to Korea. She went to Apia, Samoa last month and won one gold medal and two bronze in the 2011 Oceania Regional Championships.

The Kagman High School graduate set new CNMI and Micronesian marks in the 100m (12.52 seconds) and 200m (25.67 seconds) runs in Samoa and claimed bronze medals in these two events. Then in the last day of the Oceania competition, she notched a gold medal in the 400m race with a time of 57.66 seconds.

ALL-STARS

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them to move the game to the other field.

Over at the playable field, Thailand slugged in out with Singapore and the latter won, 11-3. The game was originally set for 11am, but was also halted by rain and finished past 1pm, forcing the CNMI and Guam to wait for more than two hours to start their important match.

However, the two rivals only played the top half of the first inning with the CNMI shutting out Guam. The Commonwealth strikers never had a chance to bat, as heavy rains started falling again.

Organizers were set to meeting last night to decide the schedule of the CNMI-Guam tiff and it is likely to be held this morning. Before yesterday's rained-out game, organizers originally scheduled two semis games this morning, but it may be moved to afternoon to give way to the CNMI-Guam tussle.

The CNMI holds a 1-2 record, while Guam has a 2-1 mark. A CNMI win will advance the team to the semifinals against Pool A top finisher Chinese-Taipei (5-0).

Since the first inning of the CNMI-Guam game was not completed, the match will start in the first inning, again. If it rains anew and the game fails to finish, Guam automatically advances to the next round.

With the CNMI facing a possible double-header today if it wins over Guam, the Commonwealth coaching staff said that the team understands the situation and is prepared to compete no matter what.

"We are a little disappointed because the players are very anxious get out there and take on Guam, but we will rest and be ready again this morning. We can't do anything about the double-header situation, so we will take it one game at a time. It's better to have a double-header than end our ride two games early," head coach Randall Aguon said.

Meanwhile, two more matches were completed yesterday. Defending champion Chinese-Taipei run ruled Indonesia, 14-0, to sweep Pool A, while Korea (4-0) shut out the Philippines, 10-0, to top Pool B. In the semifinals, Korea will face Pool A's No. 2 finisher, which will only be determined once the New Zealand vs. Australia game is completed today.

Australia will play a make up match against New Zealand this morning. Australia must win to force a three-way tie with Singapore and Thailand for second place in Pool A. New Zealand and Indonesia are out of the running with their 1-3 and 0-5 records, respectively. If Australia loses, then Thailand will advance over Singapore based on the head-to-head tiebreaker rule. In case of a three-way tie, the winner will decided by the teams' runs scored ratios.

CNMI

From Page 28

learned how to use the Jones Counter for road race measurement. The group had theoretical and practical sessions for eight days with each session lasting for about nine hours.

The Jones Counter is named after its creator—Alan Jones—and used with a bicycle to measure road race courses. According to Jones Counter website, the counter consists of a gear assembly, fashioned of galvanized steel, to which a counter is attached. A delrin gear is attached to the counter shaft. The counter records the revolutions made as the wheel rotates. It is fastened to the front wheel of the bicycle, on the left side, and may be read by the rider while riding. The counter records 20 counts for each revolution of the wheel. By riding the bike over an accurately measured course to establish the number of counts per mile (or kilometer), one can then measure a course to a high degree of accuracy.

Sapong said the seminar will be very useful to the CNMI, as it hosts a lot of road races, which attract off-island participants.

"OAA realizes that a lot of countries are using road races to boost tourism, so it will be helpful to these countries to have accurately-measured races as advertised. In the CNMI, we don't want runners to come here knowing we have a half marathon or marathon and they end up doing short races because of the wrong measurement. It is embarrassing," Sapong said.

Diaz joined Sapong in the seminar, as MVA is the lead government agency that helps promote road races in the Commonwealth. These events include Saipan Marathon and Marianas Coffee Trail Run.

Sapong said NMA is planning to hold a similar road race measurement seminar in the CNMI. He added the course is also applicable in bike races.

"After the seminar in Brisbane, NMA will now measure first the course of every tournament we will be organizing before letting the public participate in our races," Sapong said.

The NMA secretary general added that they will be holding a 5K/10K race this month and it will be the first race course to be measured using the Jones Counter. The race set for July 30 is a fundraiser for the CNMI Team that will compete in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia next month. More details about the fundraiser will be released.

2011 IT&E Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament Playoffs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kim Boranah serves to Lalaine Pagarao during the first set of their title game in the women's C singles division of the 2011 IT&E Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament last month at the TSL Sports Complex.

Lalaine Pagarao reaches in for the shuttlecock during the second set of her women's C singles title match against Kim Boranah.

Gary Bandoja eyes the shuttlecock during a scrimmage before his men's B1 singles championship game against Noli Santos.

Dick Guintu gets ready to hit a volley during a warm-up drill before his semis game against Mario Diola in the men's A singles.

Noli Santos hits a volley against Gary Bandoja during their men's B1 singles championship game.

Brandon Talania smashes the shuttlecock during his and Jerome Malasarte's men's C doubles title match against Dick Kho and Joel Ortega.

Dick Kho serves to Brandon Talania and Jerome Malasarte.

Joel Ortega serves to Jerome Malasarte and Brandon Talania.

Jerome Malasarte stretches for a return while teammate Brandon Talania looks on.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yvonne off to World Championships

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Yvonne Bennett, left, seen here leading in the 100m race in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, will compete in the 200m run in the 2011 IAAF World Championships in Daegu, Korea.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Yvonne Bennett earned another trip to the World Championships after being selected as one of the two CNMI representatives to the biennial competition in Daegu, Korea.

According to Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general Robin Sapong, Bennett will be competing in the 200m racae in the 2011 IAAF World Championships that will kick off on Aug. 27 and run until Sept. 4 at the Daegy Stadium, the same venue that hosted the 2002 FIFA World Cup.

Joining Bennett in Korea is sprinter Orrin Joseph Ogumoro Pharmin and NMA president Ray Tebuteb, who will be attending the International Association of Athletics Federations general assembly

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CNMI joins road race measurement clinic

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Marianas Athletics will make sure that road races in the CNMI, such as early this year's Saipan Marathon, are accurately measured.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two officials from the CNMI attended a road race measurement seminar in Australia last week.

Robin Sapong of the Northern Marianas Athletics and Marianas Visitors Authority's Ed Diaz participated in the eight-day seminar at the Regional Development Centre-Oceania in Brisbane, joining 16 other individuals from Oceania Athletics Association-member countries.

At the RDS, Sapong and Diaz

See CNMI on Page 26

CNMI All-Stars try again

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

GUAM — Yesterday's do-or-die game between the CNMI Major All-Stars and Guam at the Northern Region Sports Complex in Dededo was rained-out.

The visitors are now praying for good weather today or they have to kiss goodbye to their playoffs bid in 2011 Asia-Pacific Major Division Regional Championship.

The CNMI and Guam were scheduled to play yesterday at 11:30am, but early rain stalled the start up. Tournament organizers scattered to cover up the infield with tarps and vacuumed water from the outfield, but more rain fell, forcing

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Jadrien Camacho pitches for the CNMI All-Stars during their game against Korea in the 2011 Asia-Pacific Major Division Regional Championship last weekend at the Northern Region Sports Complex in Dededo, Guam.

Mobil donates $800 to Matansa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club's preparation for the fall season got a big boost after it received a donation from Mobil Oil Marianas Islands, Inc.

Mobil donated $800 to Matansa to cover a portion of players' registration fee. The donation turnover ceremony took place at Mobil Oil's office in Puerto Rico on July 1.

"We have a program at Matansa Football Club called Free Lunch-Free Soccer. If you are qualified under the Public School System free meal pro-

See MOBIL on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mobil Oil Marianas Islands, Inc. field operations manager Anthony Wenceslao, right, presents the $800 check donation to Matansa Football Club general secretary Joven Cruz during the turnover ceremony at Mobil Oil's office in Puerto Rico early this month.